

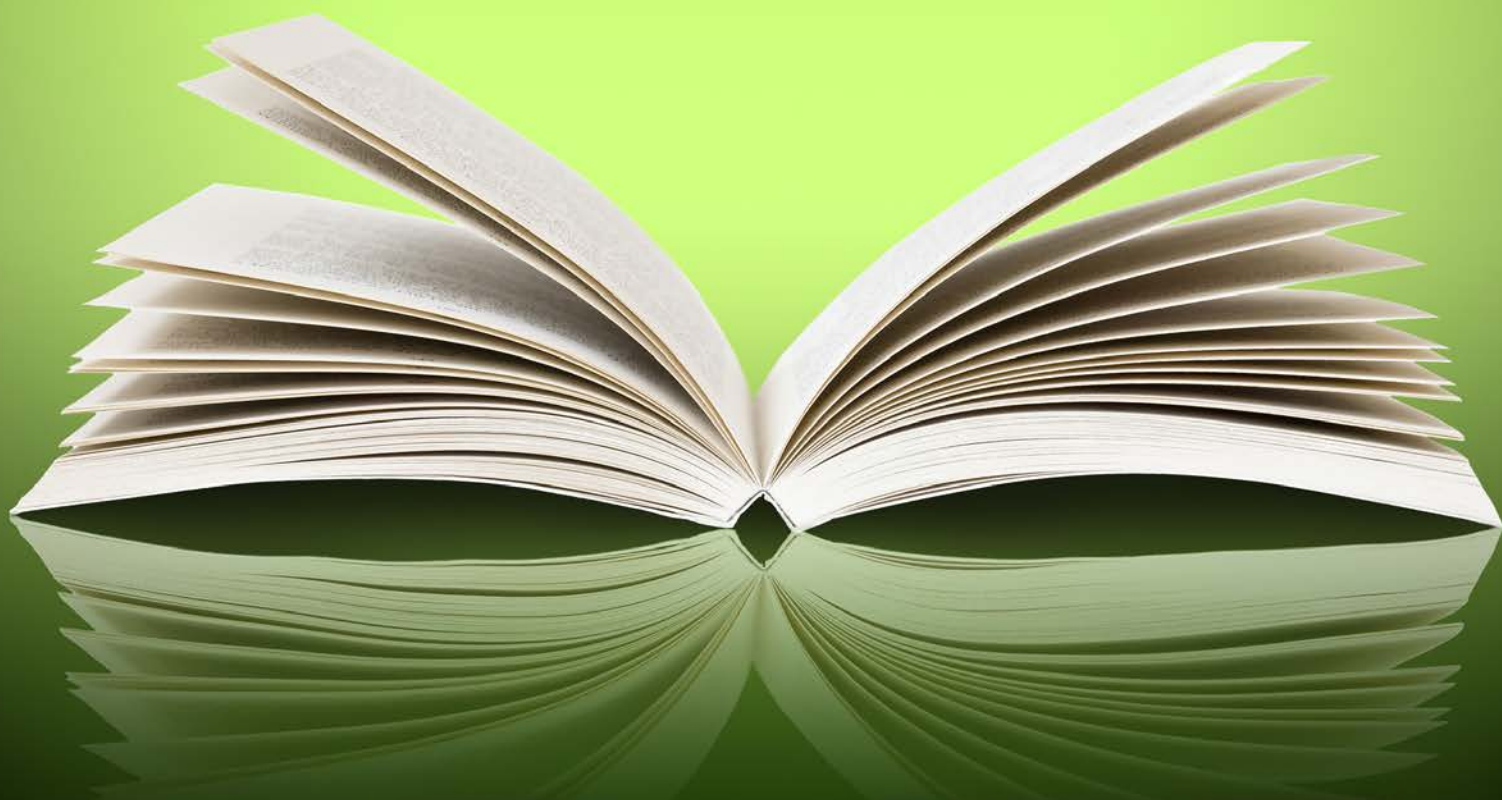
The magazine of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

UNC Charlotte

Winter/Spring • 2017

THE GATO COLLEGE OF EDUCATION:

TURNING THE PAGE FOR THE STUDENT OF TOMORROW



**3 COLLEGES,
1 COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**
University addresses community
mental health needs

**CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE BROADENS
UNIVERSITY'S GLOBAL REACH**
Nonprofit will expand educational,
cultural options

Change Enriches UNC Charlotte

For over fifty years, change has become a key component of UNC Charlotte's institutional DNA. From our establishment in 1946 as the Charlotte Center of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill through our evolution as Charlotte College (1949-1964) and then as the fourth campus of the UNC system (1965 to present), the only constant we have experienced has been constant change.

Of course, some changes have been more important than others, such as our development from being an institution with a very concentrated campus-based teaching mission to one that today reflects a complex mix of teaching on campus and off (in person and on-line), research and technology transfer, economic development and cultural enhancement, and community engagement. And changes in our mission have resulted over time in changes to our inventory of baccalaureate, master's, certificate, and doctoral programs, and increases in the numbers of faculty and staff necessary to adequately meet our current mission obligations as "North Carolina's urban research university."

With these changes have come a staggering increase in student enrollment and dramatic alterations and additions to the physical campus, including our academic and student support buildings, road infrastructure,

and campus grounds. My predecessor, Chancellor Jim Woodward, used to say that if UNC Charlotte wanted to be thought of as a major research university, then we would have to look like one. Over the course of the past twelve years of my chancellorship, we have been dedicated to meeting that challenge, with more than \$1.2B in expenditures on new construction and renovation. As we continue over the next several years with implementing what we call the "Five Year Master Capital Plan," we look forward to additional investments approaching \$350 million.

Over the course of the next year, visitors to the campus will notice the tangible results of these investments. Here are updates on some of those projects:

New and Renovated Academic Facilities

A large and complex project is under way to renovate the historic academic core of the campus, which includes the Barnard, Denny, Garinger, Macy, and Winningham buildings. These facilities are among the oldest on our campus and most in need of important infrastructure upgrades (e.g., HVAC, electrical, new windows) and a variety of aesthetic improvements (e.g., carpeting, paint, classroom and office furnishings). We began this multi-year project over the 2016 holiday break with the Denny



Building and hope to have that ready for occupancy by the time classes begin in August. Notably, favorable contracting bids on this project will permit us to clad the exterior of the building in brick (a research university can never have enough brick!) and thereby bring Denny into our architectural family. After Denny is complete, we will move on to Macy and Barnard, and then on to Garinger and Winningham, finishing all five buildings by December 2018.

While actual renovation

**"THE ONLY CONSTANT WE
HAVE EXPERIENCED HAS BEEN
CONSTANT CHANGE."**

construction has begun in the historic academic core, the new Science Building, funded by last year's successful Connect NC bond measure, is in the schematic design phase. This much needed facility will include teaching and research labs, classrooms, student collaborative spaces, faculty offices, and administrative and student support areas. The project also includes a modern data center for the campus and a regional utility plant. We expect the building to be completed and ready in time for classes in fall 2020. (Drawings of some of these new facilities appear on pages 28-29.)

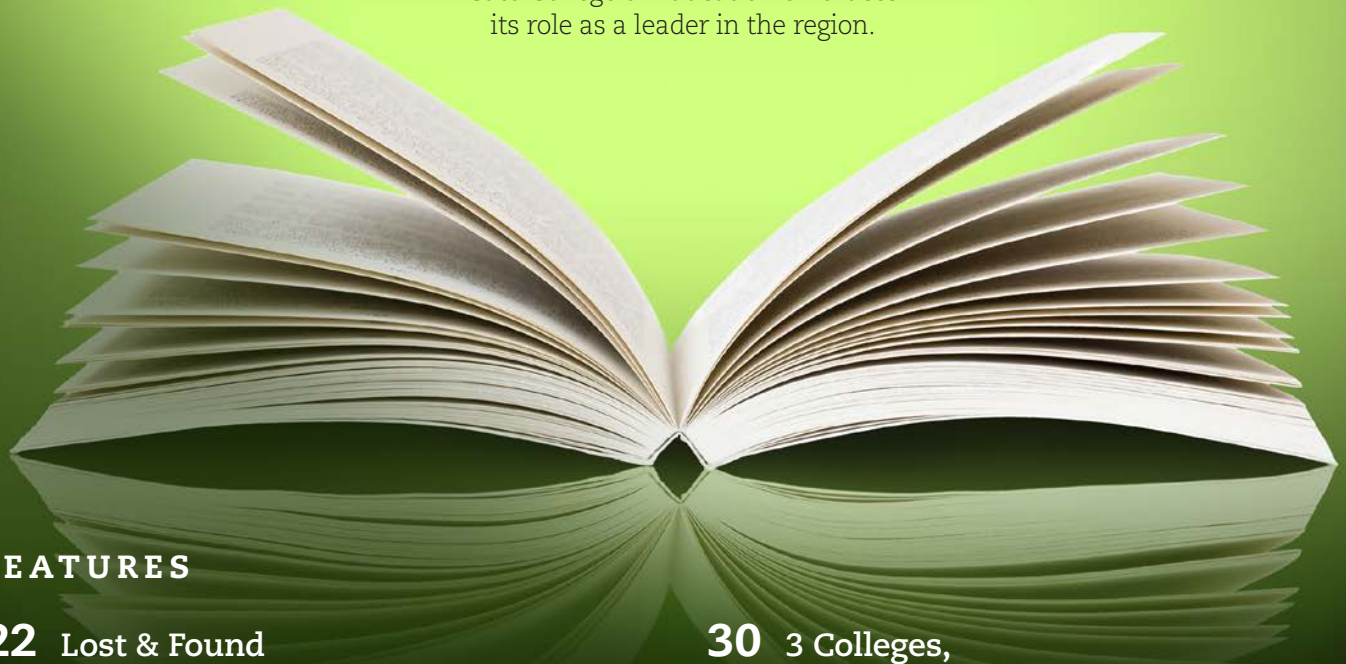
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UNC Charlotte has long been a respected producer of top teachers, counselors and school leaders, especially in the Charlotte region. That standing received a major endorsement when the Cato Corporation generously invested in education at UNC Charlotte. Invigorated by a \$5 million gift, the Cato College of Education embraces its role as a leader in the region.



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22 Lost & Found

Charlotte-area dance enthusiasts were treated to a rare performance at Robinson Hall that featured the work of internationally renowned choreographer Paul Taylor. Last seen in 1964, “Tracer” not only thrilled the sold-out crowd but also capped an 18-month reconstruction project led by associate professor of dance Kim Jones.

26 Confucius Institute Broadens University’s Global Reach

A Confucius Institute will open at UNC Charlotte in summer 2017 to broaden the University’s outreach and support for language instruction and cultural opportunities in the Charlotte community.

30 3 Colleges, 1 Community Collaboration

Three UNC Charlotte colleges have formed an interdisciplinary partnership to confront a growing, but largely unmet, need in the Charlotte community. It is the first such initiative in the country and has become a national model for other colleges and universities.

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Much of Niner Nation knows 49ers football standout Larry Ogunjobi from his impressive career as a defensive lineman. Yet, summarizing his career at UNC Charlotte only by his work on the football field would capture half the story.

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Bank of America is committing \$1.5 million to the Exponential Campaign to support research at UNC Charlotte in the Data Science Initiative and to sponsor a series of marquee lectures at the University.

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Many UNC Charlotte alumni serve in public office on city, county, state and national levels. They've paved the way for a number of UNC Charlotte students to follow their footsteps.

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Set to retire this summer, Art Jackson reflects on his time as vice chancellor of student affairs and his decade of service to the students of UNC Charlotte.

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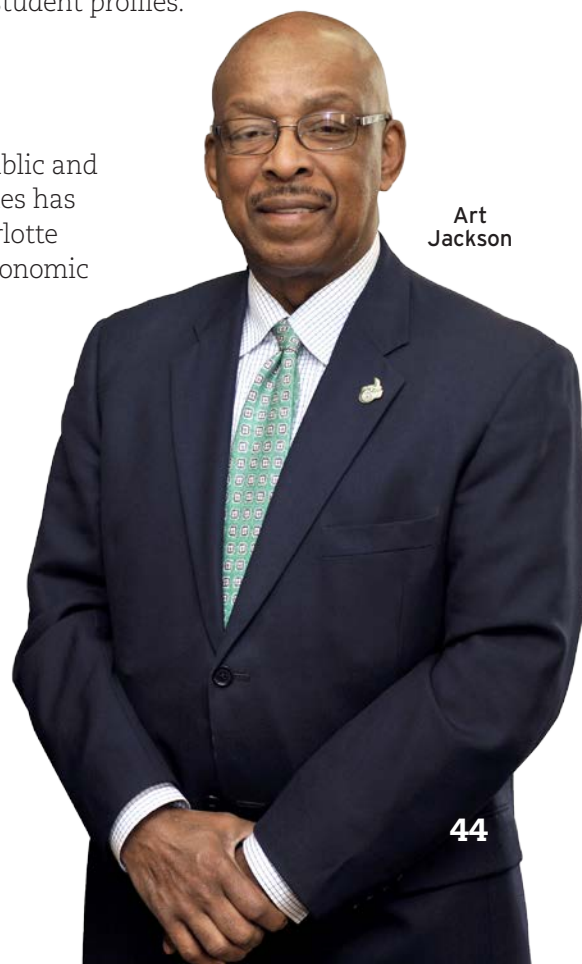
The UNC Charlotte "Pride of Niner Nation" Marching Band provides a heartbeat and soul to all home football games in Jerry Richardson Stadium. Get to know a few members of the band in these student profiles.

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The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities has designated UNC Charlotte an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University.

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Art Jackson

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Alumni: Building a Legacy

Alumni have been generous to UNC Charlotte in many ways, including gifts to boost facilities and programs. A college, four buildings and a promenade on campus have been named in honor of 49er alumni.

Hunter and Stephanie Edwards Promenade

Named for Hunter ('88) and Stephanie ('86) Edwards, the promenade was dedicated on Aug. 28, 2015. It houses broadcast booths and University coaches and media boxes at Jerry Richardson Stadium.

Hauser Alumni Pavilion

Named after David ('77) and Nancy ('77) Hauser, the pavilion is the home of Alumni Tailgate Village during football season. It was dedicated on Sept. 26, 2015.

Johnson Band Center

Named after Vickie ('71) and Gene Johnson ('73), the 6,700-square-foot center is home to the UNC Charlotte "Pride of Niner Nation" Marching Band. The center was dedicated on Oct. 21, 2015.

Jamil Niner Student Pantry

Named after Dhiaa ('78) and Hope Jamil, the pantry benefits students who struggle with food security. The pantry was dedicated Aug. 31, 2016.

Karen A. Popp and Demond T. Martin Student Union

Named after Karen A. Popp ('80) and Demond T. Martin ('97), the Student Union was dedicated on Sept. 22, 2016, as part of the Exponential Campaign Kick-Off. At nearly 200,000 square feet, the facility serves as the epicenter of campus.

Cato College of Education

Named for the Cato Corporation and John Cato ('73), the Cato College of Education was dedicated on Nov. 11, 2016. The college is the No. 1 producer of newly licensed teachers in the state, according to the UNC Educator Quality Dashboard. For more on the college, see this issue's cover story.



Exponential Impact



Working on this edition has reminded me how much we get to say about UNC Charlotte in 60 pages. Granted, we could publish 100 pages or more and still not cover all the terrific people and programs at work on our campus and in the community. Yet, as we have expanded the page count of this magazine, we have the opportunity to depict an even broader snapshot of the University.

In this edition, you will read about topics as varied as campus construction, the education of future teachers, intercollegiate sports, resurrection of a long lost modern dance classic, an interdisciplinary community program to aid people with mental health needs, and a look at the importance of developing critical thinking skills. You will also find content about a new partnership to expand education about Chinese culture,

profiles of interesting people – marching band members, a young alum pursuing pro football and computer science, generous donors – a memorial to a legendary educator, and quite a bit more. In sum, this edition gives you another snapshot of a dynamic University driven by exceptional people making an exponential impact.

Thanks for reading!

Regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John D. Bland'.

John D. Bland, Editor
*Senior Director for Public
Relations & News Services*



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University bolsters teaching critical thinking

BY SHELLY THERIAULT MUHL

Bioinformatics graduate student Mohammed Zwayyer is one of nearly 225,000 UNC system students preparing for a career. Zwayyer knows today's competitive professional landscape requires even more than academic performance.

In 2013, the UNC system Faculty Advisory Council to the UNC Strategic Directions Committee published a paper "Our University, Our Future," noting "We must strive to prepare the citizens of our state to be creative and critical thinkers with both knowledge of the world and the ability to forge pathways to excellence."

A growing number of business recruiters report that critical thinking — among other core competencies that include communication skills, historical and social perspective and creativity — is recognized as "what employers want and where higher education must go to thrive," said Patrick Madsen, Ph.D., director of UNC Charlotte's University Career Center. Corporate recruiters look for applicants who not only understand their field but also know how to approach problems, create solutions and collaborate with others toward goals, Madsen noted.

So how do students *learn* to think critically? It's a complex discussion as critical thinking cannot be singularly defined; faculty, employers and other stakeholders approach it from myriad angles and perspectives.

This is where UNC Charlotte and partner institution Kingston University London recognized an untapped opportunity. Why not harness these conversations into a larger, more synergistic format? After several months of planning, the universities held an interactive, two-day symposium at UNC Charlotte Center City. Participants examined questions such as, "What does critical thinking look like?" "How can it be taught across disciplines?" and "Can critical thinking be measured?"

Entitled "Approaching a Common Language: Critical Thinking Symposium for the UNC System," the event kicked off with more than 200 participants hearing keynote speaker Lesley-



Jane Eales-Reynolds, deputy vice chancellor at Kingston University London. She shared personal experiences in a talk called "Critical Thinking — A Modern Solution to an Age-Old Problem." Afterward, attendees participated in facilitated workshops, exploring issues such as how to define critical thinking and how to construct teaching curriculum around it.

A discussion panel consisting of UNC Charlotte alumni and local corporate recruiters highlighted the important symbiotic relationship universities and employers share when it comes to critical thinking.

Alumnus Caitlyn Swett, a freelance arts administrator and independent dance maker, encouraged the relationship. "I feel that, as educators, facilitating collaboration in the classroom is important when preparing students for critical thinking in their academic experience and career." Panelists also encouraged students to take advantage of resources available to them on campus, such as the University Career Center.

Zwayyer, the bioinformatics graduate student, exemplifies how critical thinking enriches a student's academic experience. He believes it has already paid in dividends for him. "The general education classes are the door to other worlds and possibilities. I learned about my master's degree interest, bioinformatics, in one of those classes," he said. "I've (also) learned to apply the

scientific method in my field as well as my life ... corroborating theories or ideas with evidence and litmus tests."

Conversations did not end with the symposium's close. Heather McCullough, one of the event's planners and associate director for the Center for Teaching and Learning, shared that UNC Charlotte students will see critical thinking and communication phased in as a general education requirement in spring 2018. "We look forward to supporting pedagogy that strengthens our students' critical thinking skills," McCullough said.

The University Career Center's Madsen noted that the center can facilitate incorporating a business problem or need into a classroom assignment.

The center has several ongoing initiatives with faculty, too, such as incorporating competency-based goals into the classroom. Instructors' syllabuses can include "soft" learning outcomes such as communication, teamwork and time management, in addition to traditional academic outcomes. ●

Editor's Note: Businesses can learn more about how they can connect with a UNC Charlotte classroom at career.uncc.edu.

Shelly Theriault Muhl is communications coordinator in Information Technology Services.

Provost Joan Lorden named 2016 Charlotte Woman of the Year

UNC Charlotte Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joan F. Lorden is the recipient of the 2016 Charlotte Woman of the Year Award for Civic Leadership and Service. Bestowed by the Charlotte Woman of the Year Committee, the honor is presented for exceptional service and exemplary leadership.

Cyndee Patterson, president of The Lee Institute and a 1997 Charlotte Woman of the Year honoree, said, “Joan is truly a servant leader. She leads by listening carefully, asking insightful questions and then throws herself into whatever project she takes on in the community. Her accomplishments are extraordinary and not heralded nearly enough.”

Lorden, who joined UNC Charlotte in 2003, is currently the UNC system's longest-serving provost and provides leadership for seven colleges, the graduate school and multiple research institutes.

As the University's chief academic officer, Lorden has spearheaded a renewed commitment to deepening the scope of civic engagement across the campus. The result has been the implementation of an innovative, action-oriented and civic-engagement approach to curriculum that has affected thousands of students, faculty and community partners.



Lorden's community service is extensive. She partnered with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools to establish the Charlotte Engineering Early College High School at UNC Charlotte; she was an appointed member of the Arts and Science Council's Cultural Life Task Force; she has served on the board of directors for the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center; she was a member of the Women's Impact Fund Board; and currently, she is a member of the board of Discovery Place.

Academy for Public Health Innovation launches

The College of Health and Human Services and Mecklenburg County Health Department have launched a new partnership designed to improve community health and enhance education.

The Academy for Population Health Innovation (APHI) will strive to make Charlotte the nation's healthiest community through forward-thinking research, implementation of evidence-based practices in public health, training and workforce development, and community engagement.

The concept was co-developed by Nancy Fey-Yensan, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, and Mecklenburg County Health Director Marcus Plescia.

The APHI collaborative is uniquely designed to advance the ability of UNC Charlotte to provide world-class training opportunities for students. Students will work with the APHI team on key health related issues facing the community to better understand the application of what they are learning in the classroom.

New program provides community engagement experiences for undergraduates

The UNC Charlotte chapter of the Bonner Leaders Program is relatively new to campus. Yet, the participating students already are engaged in efforts to serve the community.

This year's cohort of 12 undergraduates is partnering with five area nonprofits: Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency, Camino Community Center, Discovery Place, Friendship Gardens/Friendship Trays and the Levine Museum of the New South.

Through their work with the five partner agencies, Bonner Leaders will contribute to community efforts that fight hunger, preserve cultural histories, promote science education, increase access to health services and address the digital divide.

The Bonner Leaders Program is part of a nationwide network of more than 70 colleges and universities affiliated with and guided by the Bonner Foundation, which works with these institutions to support students to attend college and to be active and involved in the greater community.

As part of the program, UNC Charlotte Bonner Leaders take



required courses devoted to themes that apply to their work outside the classroom. Their curriculum is designed to build critical thinking, problem solving and communication skills. Students also will conduct undergraduate research and have the opportunity to minor in urban youth and communities.

Symposium addresses organ donation shortages

The demand for organ transplants in the United States continues to outpace the supply by a ratio of 5-to-1. As one reads this, 21 people will die as a result of the organ shortage.

In February, representatives of the Charlotte Eye Bank; the Organ Preservation Alliance; LifeShare of the Carolinas; Carolinas HealthCare System; and scientific researchers in the fields of biology, engineering, and public health from UNC Charlotte came together to explore barriers to the donor shortage.

It marks the first time that researchers from the Charlotte Banks initiative had an opportunity to hear first-hand from LifeShare staff and a Carolinas Medical Center transplant surgeon on the challenges they face as they work against the clock to save lives through organ donation.

Charlotte Banks is a research initiative based at UNC Charlotte aimed at extending the potential storage time for donated organs such as kidneys and livers, using technologies such as 'deep cold storage.' It was founded by Gloria Elliott, a UNC Charlotte professor and associate chair of research in the Lee College of Engineering, who is recognized for her research in the areas of thermodynamics of biological systems and focuses on short- and long-term solutions to easing the donor shortage.

Elliott said technology using cryogenic temperatures of 100-150 degrees below zero could allow organs to be stored for months instead of hours using current methods.

The symposium organizers stated the goal of the February event was to continue the dialogue related to organ donation shortage and to become an annual event to celebrate National Donor Day.



Ryan Kennedy is CEO of Atom Power, a company working to make commercial power safer. He also is a UNC Charlotte alumnus.

PORTAL powers innovation in energy sector

PORTAL is UNC Charlotte's powerhouse of innovation, designed to support the region's entrepreneurial environment. Therefore, it was a fitting location for a major announcement by Atom Power officials that it had secured an equity investment from Siemens to advance its revolutionary circuit breaker design.

Ryan Kennedy, CEO of Atom Power and a UNC Charlotte alumnus, founded the innovative company in 2014 to make commercial power safer and more efficient through a novel circuit breaker design. The company has been headquartered in PORTAL, since May 2015.

"For decades, circuit breakers and panels have been mostly mechanical in nature with limited control points," said Kennedy, who earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from UNC Charlotte. "Since our founding, we have developed circuit breakers that are not only dynamic and intelligent but are making electricity safe by preventing arc flash hazards."

He said the funding, received in partnership with next47, the independent innovation arm of Siemens, would accelerate Atom Power's initiatives toward achieving UL (Underwriter's Laboratories) listing and development of higher amperage circuit breakers currently under development.

Terry Royer, vice president of operations and product development for Siemens Low Voltage and Product business, noted, "Atom Power is on the leading edge of a fundamental change in the traditional circuit breaker and shows great promise toward enhanced energy awareness and faster reactions times in an increasingly complex energy landscape."

"PORTAL was perfect for us, because we wanted to be close to the Lee College of Engineering and the labs in EPIC," Kennedy said. "EPIC has great, robust infrastructure and the Electrical Engineering Department is very focused on power at the systems level, which is a great fit with us."



UNC Charlotte with permission from the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

UNC Charlotte researchers are making inroads in fire science, working to help save lives, wildland vegetation and property.

Research teams take aim at wildfire spread

With a wall of fans six-stories high creating winds in a huge, one-of-a-kind laboratory, researchers from UNC Charlotte's Fire Safety Engineering Technology program and the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) are burning building materials and wildland vegetation to study wind-driven wildfire embers. These large-scale tests are part of three-year study to understand and, in the long run, mitigate the risks involved when embers from wildfires spread.

Sponsored by the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP), the \$420,000 "Fire Ember Production from Wildland and Structural Fuels" project brings together researchers from seven institutions. Aixi Zhou, an associate professor in the Fire Safety Engineering Technology Department in the Lee College of Engineering, is the principal investigator on the project.

"The project addresses the emerging problems we face as a nation with wildfire," Zhou said. "Human safety and property damage risks are increasing as development continues to get closer and closer to wildland areas. The number of wildfires is also increasing, as warmer temperatures and drought conditions are leading to more fires such as those in the North Carolina and Tennessee mountains in fall 2016."

The JFSP project aims to gain a better understanding of the embers produced during a wildfire and to characterize them based on size and mass. The research includes small-scale laboratory ignition tests and large-scale tests where vegetative and structural materials are burned in a wind tunnel.

The project involves testing building materials and vegetation to learn how to prevent or reduce property damage from wildfires, and to help people understand the steps they can take to protect their homes and businesses.

"This type of experience gets the students out in the field to learn," Zhou said. "Experiential learning is a key to all of our academic programs."

Research explores value of evaluating peers' writing

Practice giving feedback to peers and instruction on evaluation using specific criteria can help elementary school students improve their own writing, according to a study co-authored by a Cato College of Education professor.

Published in the journal *Reading Research Quarterly*, the study was conducted by Zoi Philippakos, assistant professor in the Department of Reading and Elementary Education, and a colleague from the University of Delaware, Newark. The research examined the effects of giving feedback on reviewers' writing quality and inclusion of elements of persuasion. Participants were fourth and fifth-grade students.

In the study, fourth- and fifth-grade students were trained to review and provide comments on peers' writing. They were then randomly assigned to three groups: reviewers, reader-control and time-control. The reviewers read persuasive essays written by unknown students and provided numeric ratings and feedback. The reader-control group read the same papers but did not provide any feedback, and the time-control group read narrative books.

Results indicated that both instruction in evaluation criteria and the practice of peer reviewing papers led to improvements in the quality of students' own writing.

"Compared to the control group, reviewers improved the quality of their own persuasive writing," said Philippakos. "They also provided more elements of persuasion compared to readers of persuasive essays and to readers of narrative texts."

"The likely explanation is that reviewing helped students learn the evaluation criteria and apply them when writing and revising their own essays," the authors noted.



M.S. in Mathematical Finance Program highly rated

UNC Charlotte's Master of Science in Mathematical Finance program is among the top 20 programs in the nation, ranking No. 18 in the TFE Times' 2017 Master of Financial Engineering Program Rankings.

This is an increase from the previous No. 20 ranking for the Mathematical Finance program, which currently enrolls more than 90 students. The TFE Times' rankings are the most comprehensive rankings for graduate financial engineering, financial mathematics, quantitative finance, computational finance and mathematical finance programs in the United States. The rankings are calculated based on a series of factors, including average GRE scores, starting salaries, undergraduate GPA, acceptance rates, and the number of employed graduates.

Located in the second largest financial center in the U.S., UNC Charlotte's Mathematical Finance program is a joint program of the Departments of Finance and Economics in the Belk College of Business and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

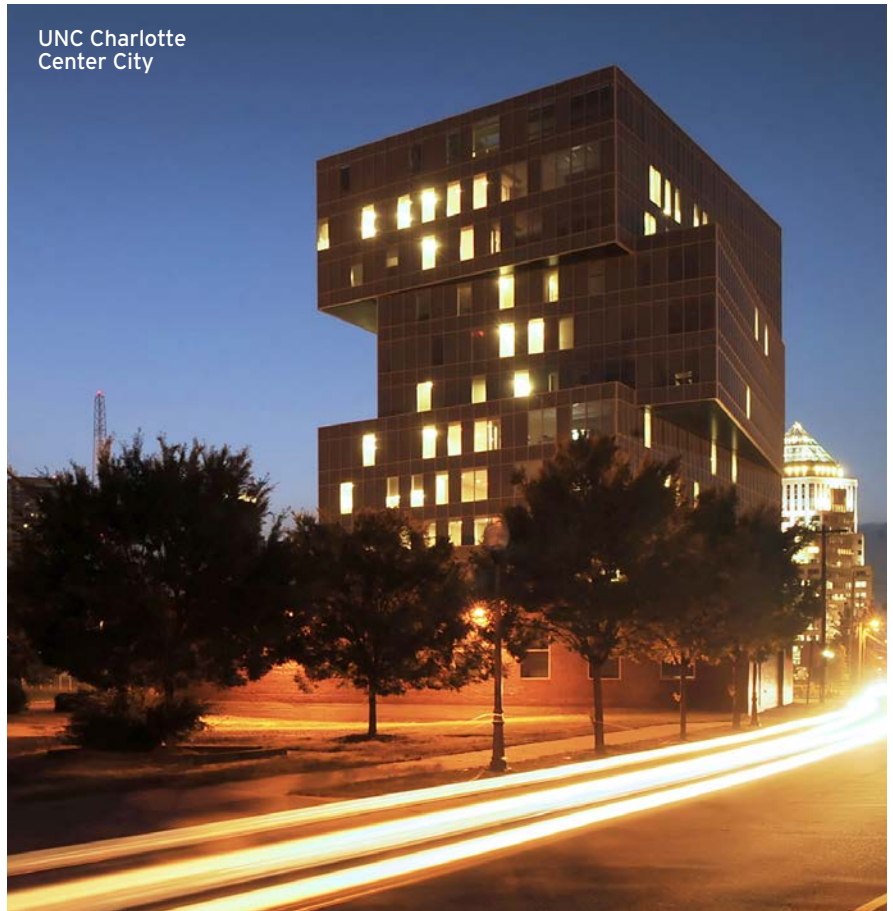
New Public Management Certificate launches

Managers in the public sector face specific challenges that are different from those working in the for-profit arena. To address these challenges, UNC Charlotte's Master of Public Administration Program, in partnership with the University's Continuing Education Office, is launching the MPA Public Management Academy Professional Development Certificate program.

"There are certainly generic management skills relevant to any setting, but there are fundamental differences between the private and public sectors. Government and nonprofit managers must appreciate these differences to be effective," said Tom Barth, director of the University's MPA program and co-developer of this new noncredit certificate program.

Barth has enlisted UNC Charlotte faculty and seasoned professionals working in the field to teach each daylong session. Topics will include "Leading and Managing in a Government and Nonprofit Context," "Setting Goals and Achieving Outcomes" and "The Power of Data for Public Managers."

UNC Charlotte
Center City



University lands federal grant for transportation research

In urban environments such as Charlotte, multiple options are needed to move people and goods. To do so with maximum efficiency that relieves congestion and improves the quality of life for city dwellers will require innovative research, which is the aim of the Center for Advanced Multimodal Mobility Solutions and Education (CammSE) at UNC Charlotte.

Using a \$7.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, UNC Charlotte will be the lead university for this novel multi-institutional center that includes Texas Southern University, the University of Connecticut, the University of Texas at Austin and Washington State University.

Multimodal transportation refers to the integrated network of roads, airports, seaports, rails, transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian trails and walkways. CammSE researchers will apply the multimodal term to the movement of people and goods, with the aim of developing innovations to relieve congestion and improve efficiency for both.

Investigators will work in collaboration with the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) and the N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT). "At UNC Charlotte, we have expert faculty and great resources to help the community," said Wei Fan, associate professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and principal investigator for the center. "This center will be very important to the Charlotte area, the great state of North Carolina and the entire Southeast region. We will use our research expertise to solve real-world problems for CATS and NCDOT."

MUD Program joins joint design project

The School of Architecture's Master of Urban Design studio has joined urban design students from Georgia Institute of Technology and the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tongji University (Shanghai, China) for a joint urban design studio project. The studio is led by Assistant Professor Ming-Chun Lee.

The project began with three days of field surveys/site analyses in Savannah, Georgia, using analytical essays about the 18th-century plan for the city by James Edward Oglethorpe.

The students then traveled to Atlanta, where, over the course of a week, they developed proposals for three sites in Atlanta – Centennial Place, Renaissance Park and the Atlanta Civic Center. These research-based proposals draw upon both the analyses of Savannah and the



UNC Charlotte urban design students are working with peers at Georgia Tech and Tongji University (Shanghai, China).

histories and site situations of the areas in Atlanta (neighborhoods formerly known as Tanyard Bottom and Buttermilk Bottom), to examine how to create better cities, or parts of cities, for everyone.



Tax team places second in national competition

A five-student team from UNC Charlotte earned second place among nine top-ranked teams in the national Deloitte FanTAXtic, Deloitte's student Tax Case Study Competition.

The UNC Charlotte team earned \$1,000 per student and a \$5,000 institutional award at the competition.

Prior to the final competition, 60 teams representing 43 colleges and universities participated in regional qualifier events in 13 Deloitte offices throughout the country. The UNC Charlotte team was named as one of nine regional winners of Deloitte FanTAXtic, advancing to the national competition. In addition, a second UNC Charlotte team finished second in regionals, receiving a national honorable mention.

The students from UNC Charlotte's Turner School of Accountancy demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively to solve a complex business case simulation.

Hardin receives Witherspoon Distinguished Service Award



Hardin

The Cooperative Christian Ministry recognized Elizabeth Hardin, vice chancellor for business affairs, with the 2016 Loy Witherspoon Distinguished Service Award.

The award is named for the late Loy Witherspoon, who founded Cooperative Christian Ministry in 1964 after being recruited by Bonnie Cone to serve as the first chair of what was then Charlotte College's Department of Philosophy and Religion and to serve as the campus minister. Witherspoon died Jan. 15.

Hardin was recognized for her work with Rev. Steve Cheyney, Niner United's campus minister, to secure a \$100,000 grant from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment's Theological Exploration of Vocation for Campus Ministries Initiative. The grant, awarded in 2014, was one of only 21 across the country.

During her acceptance remarks, Hardin cited two forces, in addition to her religious faith, that drive her desire to serve the students of UNC Charlotte through Niner United.

The first is the power of public education, and specifically higher education, to help close the opportunity gap in the United States, a topic that has interested Hardin since she was a teenager.

The second influence was having the opportunity to get to know Cone and Witherspoon and seeing firsthand their commitment to educating the whole student – both inside and outside the classroom. Witherspoon especially left a lasting impact through the campus ministry.

CLAS professor garners prestigious fellowship



Stedman

Associate Professor of French Allison Stedman has received a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to complete a book project with relevance for understanding mind-body connections, the history of medicine, miracles, mysticism, holism and metaphysical theology.

The year-long fellowship will support the outcome of in-depth research to be conducted at the Arsenal Library and the French National Library in Paris, for Stedman's book "The Mind-Body Connection in Early Modern France, 1580-1735: Metaphysics, Mysticism, Miracles, Medicine."

"This NEH Fellowship is a distinct honor, and we are so proud of Dr. Stedman," said Nancy A. Gutierrez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at UNC Charlotte. "The award will support her research and will generate knowledge that can be shared with our students and the broader community. Learning from the past is critical as we confront the challenges of today."

Stedman's project is expected to generate knowledge with connections to an array of disciplines and interests.

"I think a lot of people are curious about how the mind-body connection works, especially if they have ever experienced an illness or watched a loved one suffer from symptoms that modern medicine was unable to diagnose or to cure," Stedman said.

Stedman did preliminary research at the Arsenal Library in 2011, focused on the psychological repercussions of religious conversion during the French 1600s. Her exploration of the narratives she found there opened her eyes to broader implications and led her to seek support for expanded research with relevance to today's views of medicine and healing.

"To have the NEH agree to fund my project as a full-year faculty fellowship is an honor beyond an honor and a blessing beyond a blessing," Stedman said. "Without this fellowship the project would have taken many more years to complete."

CHHS reaches \$5 million research goal

Three years ago, the College of Health and Human Services set an aspirational goal to reach a goal of \$5 million in competitive external funding. To help support the work of talented faculty and their students, the college has made progressive and strategic investments in strengthening its internal pre- and post-award grants and contracts structure.

Systematic strengthening of the communications and relationship with the Office of Research and Economic Development proved to be key. The college financially supports Project Mosaic, UNC Charlotte's social science research initiative, and it continues to invest in CHHS research academies as a way to provide communities of scholars the choice to interface and submit grants with faculty who share common interests and goals.

"The vision, dedication, persistence and talent of faculty helped to reach the goal, and most importantly, the research in the college not only trains the next generation of practitioners and researchers, but changes lives for the better in the region's communities – a central theme in the college mission," said Nancy Fey-Yensan, dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Hechenbleikner Lake designated Certified Wildlife Habitat

UNC Charlotte's Hechenbleikner Lake recently earned the designation of a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

America's largest wildlife conservation and education organization, the National Wildlife Federation recognized the University's efforts to spearhead initiatives to create and maintain a space on campus that is wildlife hospitable.

Certification also makes Hechenbleikner Lake part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, a national effort to restore critical habitat for pollinators.

Hechenbleikner Lake is named for biology professor Herbert Hechenbleikner, who was recruited to the faculty by University founder Bonnie Cone. He is credited with the creation of the Van Landingham Glen, which was the basis for the University's Botanical Gardens.



Teaching *for*



Cato College of Education alumna Jordan Todd was named 2016 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Teacher of the Year.

Invigorated by
\$5 million gift,
Cato College
of Education
embraces role
as leader

BY WILLS CITY

UNC Charlotte has long been a respected producer of top teachers, counselors and school leaders, especially in the Charlotte region. That standing received a major endorsement this fall when the Cato Corporation made a \$5 million gift to the College of Education, resulting in its renaming as the Cato College of Education. The Cato gift underscores UNC Charlotte's educational leadership and enhances it by funding student scholarships and faculty awards (see sidebar, page 16). It also draws attention to its leading-edge work in teacher recruitment, teacher training and research.

Here is glimpse at that work:

Tomorrow

Michael Putman



TEACHER RECRUITMENT:

Early College

To maintain teacher quality, school districts and colleges of education must ensure the so-called “teacher pipeline” is replete with a steady stream of educators-in-training. The task can be challenging. Recent years have seen the teaching profession absorb the growing pains of new educational paradigms and the need to cater to increasingly diverse student populations. As a result, educational leaders have sought answers through creativity and collaboration.

A new partnership between the Cato College of Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) is emblematic of that approach. Beginning this fall, the new Charlotte Early College for Teachers will enroll high school freshmen interested in working in education in a comprehensive five-year program on the UNC Charlotte campus.

“It’s about what we can do as a school system to grow our own teachers here at home,” said CMS Superintendent Ann Clark, who collaborated with Cato College Dean Ellen McIntyre to build the initiative.

The only program of its kind in North Carolina and one of the first in the country, the early college will immerse students in intentional field-based learning activities. Coursework will develop knowledge and skills required for success within today’s diverse urban classrooms. Students will graduate with a high school diploma, a Certificate of Advanced Standing in Education and what may prove especially attractive to many prospective enrollees — a minimum of 60 hours in course credits

transferrable to any public institution in North Carolina.

“When the students complete their last year, they will likely have at least as many hours in a classroom as students who are a year ahead of them in the traditional four-year education program,” said Michael Putman, chairperson of the Department of Reading and Elementary Education and a project lead. “This allows the early college students to really self-reflect about which level of student is the best fit for them.”

Early nurturing of a student’s inclination toward a career in teaching is beneficial in multiple ways, Superintendent Clark said — providing a boost in the number of educators in training and helping prepare them to succeed as teachers over the critical first years in the classroom.

Added Putman, “The earlier we can get them into educational contexts to work with students, the better.”

Early college students will participate in clinical placements in urban schools focused on developing relationships with students who represent future attendees of the program. Each grade also will participate in one significant urban cultural event each academic year focused on art, music, theater or history.

The program will be housed in the Cato College building, providing students the opportunity to experience the vibrant atmosphere of a college campus. All incoming CMS freshmen interested in the program will be able to apply through an open lottery process. The first class of 55 freshmen will start class in August.



Alumnus John Cato ('73), Chancellor Dubois and Dean Ellen McIntyre of the Cato College of Education celebrated a gift that enhances opportunity through student scholarships and recognizes talent through faculty awards.

Cato Gift Creates Student Scholarships, Faculty Awards

Following a \$5 million gift this fall to UNC Charlotte, the College of Education has been renamed the Cato College of Education.

The Cato Corporation, a retailer of women's fashions and accessories, made the gift to the University's \$200 million fundraising campaign, "EXPONENTIAL: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte."

The gift funds the Cato Scholarship for Education, established to provide annual financial scholarship assistance to incoming freshman or transfer students who plan to major in a degree program offered by Cato College.

The Cato Award for Faculty Excellence will help retain the highest quality faculty. Two awards will be given yearly to promising researchers. Two additional awards will be given to tenured faculty for excellence in teaching, research or community engagement.

"The Cato College of Education is committed to preparing outstanding teachers, counselors and school leaders," said Chancellor Philip L. Dubois. "That mission is advanced

significantly by this gift, which will help us to recruit bright students who wish to pursue a major within the college as well as to support outstanding faculty for their excellence in teaching, research and community engagement."

Alumnus John Cato ('73) serves as chairman, president and CEO of the Cato Corporation, whose headquarters are in Charlotte. "Both the Cato Corporation and the Cato family have long been committed to supporting education," he said. "Teachers have the ability to educate and inspire their students, and the College of Education has a great tradition of preparing teachers for success."

Christina Gullo, a recipient of a separate Cato-backed scholarship, said, "To me, scholarships mean more than money, they mean opportunity. Because of these scholarships, I am able to learn and grow, both as a student and person."

Cato has served the University in various capacities during the years; he is a former member of the UNC Charlotte Foundation Board and the UNC Charlotte Board of Visitors. Currently, he serves on the Belk College of Business Advisory Board and was inducted into the UNC Charlotte Alumni Hall of Fame in 2012.

"The Cato gift is critical right now," said Ellen McIntyre, dean of Cato College. "We have been looking for ways to support more students who are thinking about teaching as a career, and the scholarships provide another significant incentive. For some, it may be the extra support they need to even go to college."

“THIS INSTITUTE IS CRITICAL FOR ESTABLISHING A
COMMON UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT WE MEAN
WHEN WE SAY ‘ACCOMPLISHED TEACHING.’”

Ellen ▶
McIntyre



TEACHER TRAINING: A NEW MODEL

Even before the first early college students arrive, UNC Charlotte will debut a new model to improve teacher preparation at the undergraduate level.

This June, the Cato College of Education will host a four-day institute for key professionals who participate in teacher education. The institute will bring together teacher educators, university supervisors and school-based K-12 teachers to build a common understanding of accomplished teaching and to develop coaching skills to better support teacher candidates.

The institute will be planned and facilitated by “Deans for Impact,” a national nonprofit dedicated to the improving teacher preparation, and will be attended by representatives from Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Cabarrus County and Rowan-Salisbury schools.

“This institute is critical for establishing a common understanding about what we mean when we say ‘accomplished teaching,’” said Ellen McIntyre, dean of Cato College. “Right now, many of these professionals work in silos. We believe that we can all raise our own skills in how to coach students toward becoming the best teachers they can be.”

The two-year pilot program is funded by a grant of more than \$230,000 provided by the Belk Foundation and is backed by in-kind support of the Cato College.

“With the collaboration of national experts ‘Deans for Impact,’ we believe that UNC Charlotte is going to be a frontrunner in re-imagining clinical practice for aspiring teachers,” said Johanna Anderson, executive director of the Belk Foundation. “The deep collaboration with the partnering school districts is essential to ensure that aspiring teachers are getting a realistic and supportive entry into the classroom.”

After the institute, participants will form learning teams with student teachers for a yearlong collaboration to prepare the candidates to be successful. Members of the teams will observe and coach the teacher candidates and then meet as teams to support their development. A subset of each group will create five-minute videos of expert teacher preparation and accomplished teaching.

An evaluation of the pilot will include a comparison of 60 pilot candidates’ scores with 120 non-pilot candidates scores on three measures, the student-teacher observation protocol, externally scored portfolios and the senior exit survey.

By The Numbers

No. 1

UNC Charlotte is the No. 1 producer of newly licensed teachers in the state, according to the most recently available data from the UNC Educator Quality Dashboard.

1,500

From 2012-14, the Cato College of Education produced more than 1,500 new teachers in North Carolina.

1,250

More than 1,250 Cato College alumni teach in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS).

718

718 of those teachers work in low-income schools.

2

The last two CMS Teachers of the Year were Charlotte 49ers. They are Matthew Dukes and Jordan Todd.

Dukes and Todd are among the many Cato College alumni who have taken home districtwide awards in recent years. In 2015 and 2016 in North Carolina, Cato College graduates earned teacher or administrator of the year honors in Ashe, Cabarrus, Gaston and Greene counties, as well as in the city schools of Kannapolis and Newton-Conover.

RESEARCH:

A Renewed Focus

As part of its five-year strategic plan, Cato College of Education has renewed its focus on research and is especially interested in encouraging internal cooperation and mentorship. "Collaboration is the hallmark of research in our college," said Dawson Hancock, associate dean for research and graduate studies. "The research process improves significantly when multiple faculty and students engage in discussion and research around topics of critical interest to our constituencies."

This emphasis has started to yield results; here is a look at three projects.

Learning from a Preschool's Literary Success

For faculty, research takes on added meaning when it hits close to home. Castles Daycare Academy is a fixture in the primarily low-income, African-American Oak Forest neighborhood of Charlotte, where the academy serves children ages 2 to 12.

For three decades, Castles Daycare has provided high-quality, reading-rich child care and preschool services. Castles has an impressive track record in early literacy and preparing students for school, and Cato College researchers are now set to find out how they do it.

A \$42,500 donation from Charlotte philanthropist Charlie Elberson's Reemprise Fund is backing a study of academic outcomes and learning strategies at the center. The study will follow students there for a year, tracking how they learn and develop. Researchers will document instructional practices, videotape teaching and learning and interview teachers, families and children at the center.

According to Castles director Cynthia Knight, the academy's recipe for success is simple.

"Inspiration. You have to inspire children to learn and ignite them with the power to tap into their creativity and express their thoughts," she said. "We have to help them understand that they are reading for knowledge and that this knowledge they acquire makes them powerful."

The research team studying Castles is composed

of Ellen McIntyre, dean of Cato College; Amy Hawn Nelson, director of UNC Charlotte's Institute for Social Capital; and Cynthia Baughan, assistant professor of early education.

The researchers hope to use their findings to contribute to Read Charlotte's goal of doubling the number of third graders reading on grade level by 2025, to work with local leaders to shape new pre-K programs and to inform teacher preparation programs at UNC Charlotte.

Many Students Exceed Age-Based Grade Levels

Traditional age-based grade levels may hamper the progress of millions of K-12 students in the United States and should be a target for reform, according to a study co-authored by a UNC Charlotte professor who focuses on gifted students.

Michael Matthews, professor of special education and child development, and colleagues found that between 15 and 45 percent of students enter upper elementary school already performing at least one year above grade level. They came to this conclusion after studying data from a sample of state and national assessments.

"The numbers are far higher than we expected, especially for the proportion of children who already are achieving three or more years above grade level in elementary school," said Matthews. "We already knew that acceleration is tremendously underutilized, but it looks like vastly more students could benefit from being allowed to move through the educational system at a more rapid pace."

The study found that 11 to 30 percent of elementary school students perform at least one year above their current grade level in mathematics and between 20 and 40 percent of students are a level ahead in reading. As a result, billions are wasted annually teaching students content they already know, the researchers say.

They recommend more systematic monitoring of advanced students and a more liberal application of acceleration policies, including grade skipping. The authors also suggest instructional models that cluster students based

CASTLES HAS AN IMPRESSIVE TRACK RECORD IN EARLY LITERACY AND PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SCHOOL, AND CATO COLLEGE RESEARCHERS ARE NOW SET TO FIND OUT HOW THEY DO IT.



on their level of prior learning could narrow that range and improve achievement of children at all levels.

Student Perceptions Influence School Behavior

Social and physical surroundings of a school, and the way students perceive them, may go a long way to determining student behavior.

Anne Cash, an assistant professor in the Department of Elementary Education, and her colleagues measured school ownership, disorder (such as litter and graffiti) and surveillance. The researchers also considered interactions between students and school staff.

The study applied two social theories to the school environment. Social disorganization theory speaks to environmental conditions that influence individuals to engage in crime and violence. Broken windows theory deals with lack of order signaling a lack of social control, thus encouraging crime and delinquency.

The findings suggest that although there are no direct

effects of the physical environment on student involvement in violence, there are significant indirect effects through student perceptions of rules and consequences.

“We learned that both lighting in schools and observed negative student behaviors in schools were both related to students’ perceptions of school rules and consequences ... which in turn were related to students’ involvement in violence,” said Cash.

Findings from the study stress the need for violence prevention through interventions that address physical needs, social needs and student perceptions of order and disorder within high schools.

Such interventions establish clear norms for behavior, support positive relationships and create physical environments that are safe and conducive for learning. Cash and her co-authors collected data from approximately 28,500 students from 58 high schools in Maryland. ●

Wills Citty is the director of communication for the Cato College of Education and the College of Health and Human Services.

49ers Notebook



Olympic 'Push'

Track star Briauna Jones makes USA Bobsled National Team

BY NATE WISE

UNC Charlotte track and field alumna Briauna Jones didn't know her career as an athlete would take her from polyurethane tracks to ice, but she did know she was willing to do whatever it took to chase her dream of being an Olympian.

After a successful tenure as a sprinter and jumper with the Charlotte 49ers, Jones was one of 22 athletes named to the USA Bobsled National Team in November after an impressive showing in training and trials in Lake Placid, New York, and Park City, Utah. Jones earned a

place on the women's push team.

"Everyone was telling me that I was just a rookie and that I shouldn't be taken aback if I didn't do very well, but that just fueled me," Jones recalled. "It all kind of clicked, and I beat a bunch of the veterans. That's when I knew I belonged."

A native of Summerville, South Carolina, Jones compiled an impressive resume of awards and records before graduating in 2014. She holds a place on the school's top-10 list for the following events: indoor 60-meter dash, indoor and outdoor long jump, indoor and outdoor triple jump and indoor and outdoor high jump. She also was a multiple-time conference medalist in each of those events, but perhaps her greatest achievement came in 2012 when



she helped the program's 4x100 relay team earn a trip to the national championships.

Most recently, Jones served as a volunteer coach with the Charlotte track and field program under Director of Track and Field and Cross Country Bob Olesen, whose impact on her life cannot be understated.

"Coach Olesen was a huge factor every step of the way," said Jones. "Not only did he help me build that strength and speed needed in bobsled, but he was the one that hinted at me that I could pursue a career in bobsled."

Now in his 16th season at the helm of Charlotte track and field, Olesen was a member of the U.S. bobsled team himself, representing his country in the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan. His two-man sled teams accumulated 11 World Cup medals, including two bronze at the 1997 World Championships. His tenure

with the team lasted from 1994 to 1998, during which time he also earned the 1995-96 U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) Athlete of the Year Award in the sport of bobsled and was a member of the 1996-97 USOC two-man bobsled team of the year.

Now Jones hopes to follow in his footsteps and find success in a sport that she never expected to compete in. "He knows I'm not a fan of cold weather," she said with a laugh. "He was kind of hesitant at first, but I told him I was willing to try anything."

With recent competition completed in Whistler, Canada, World Cup action continued with races in Altenberg and Winterberg, Germany, before heading to St. Moritz, Switzerland. At St. Moritz, Jones teamed with one of this country's greatest bobsledders in Elana Meyers Taylor and won gold on Jan. 21.

From there, the tour returned to Germany in Koenigssee before heading to Igls, Austria, and then to the 2017 World Championships in Sochi, Russia.

The season will conclude with the eighth and final World Cup of the season in PyeongChang, South Korea. If Jones is selected for the U.S. Olympic bobsled team in the winter of 2018, she would be the first student-athlete in Charlotte history to represent the red, white and blue in the Olympics. She is eager for the opportunity.

"Charlotte has been an amazing support system for me from the moment I walked on campus, so I just want to represent my city proudly," she said.

Nate Wise is a media relations assistant in the Sports Information Office.



Let Me Play Tops \$200,000, Sets Record

The Charlotte 49ers Athletic Foundation raised more than \$200,000 at its Let Me Play Luncheon in October at the Charlotte Convention Center. It was a record amount for the event.

The 13th annual luncheon was highlighted by a keynote address from event chairperson Lynn Good, chairman and CEO of Duke Energy.

David Marsh, 2016 USA Olympic head women's swimming coach, offered an athlete's perspective on the qualities athletic participation can build in young women. Proceeds from the event benefit the school's women's athletics programs.

Golf, Auction Events this Spring

The Athletic Foundation will host its 40th annual 49er Club Golf Outing in April and 34th annual Gold Rush Auction in June. To learn more about these events and supporting Charlotte 49er athletics, contact the foundation at 704-687-1046.

40th Annual 49er Club Golf Outing

Sponsors: Mecklenburg Valve Source, Vannoy Construction
Monday, April 24
Pine Island Country Club

34th Annual Great Gold Rush Auction

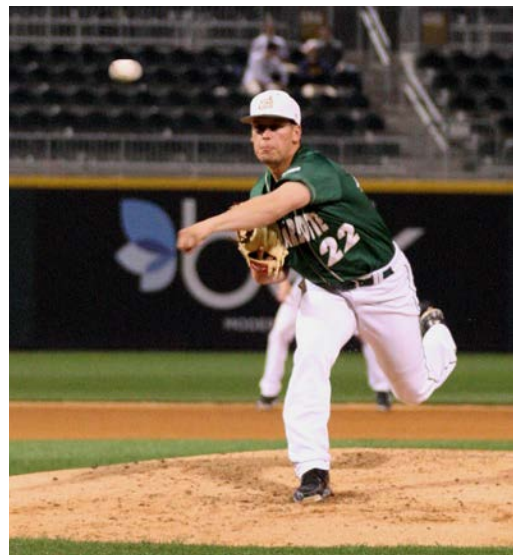
Sponsor: Chartwells, a division of Compass Group
Saturday, June 3
Dale F. Halton Arena and James H. Barnhardt Student Activity Center

Baseball Team Plays Two Games Uptown

In conjunction with the Charlotte Knights, the Charlotte 49ers baseball team scheduled two games at BB&T Ballpark in uptown Charlotte in 2017.

The 49ers hosted Wake Forest March 21 and faced N.C. State in the annual "Uptown Showdown" March 28.

"The Knights are a first-class organization," said head baseball coach Loren Hibbs of the AAA franchise. "We are thrilled to partner with them again in 2017 and bring two great rivalry games to BB&T Ballpark. These uptown games provide enormous exposure and opportunity for our players and baseball program."





Ogunjobi



Bronico



Dekovic

NFL Combine

2017

Larry Ogunjobi

MLS Combine

2017

Brandt Bronico,
Matej Dekovic

2016

Kyle Parker

2014

Tyler Gibson

2013

Donnie Smith

2012

Evan James,
Charles Rodriguez

Trio Invited to Pro Combines

Defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi became the first 49ers football player to be invited to the NFL Combine in preparation for the upcoming NFL Draft.

Ogunjobi, who holds school career records for tackles, sacks and tackles for loss, was a first-team all-Conference USA choice in the fall. He became the first 49er invited to the Reese's Senior Bowl, held Jan. 28 in Mobile, Alabama. The NFL Combine was Feb. 28-March 6, and the 2017 NFL Draft is April 27-29.

The 49ers' nationally-ranked men's soccer team sent two players to the MLS Combine Jan. 8-12 in Los Angeles. Seniors Brandt Bronico and Matej

Dekovic became the sixth and seventh 49ers invited to the combine.

Bronico, who scored on a 25-yard rocket at the event, was the Conference USA Player of the Year and the league's Offensive MVP. He earned second-team all-America honors from College Soccer News and helped the 49ers to four straight NCAA tournament bids and three national seeds during his career.

Dekovic was a first-team all-Conference USA defender who was named all-Southeast Region by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Both Bronico and Dekovic were drafted by the Chicago Fire.



Pictured above are 14 of the Charlotte 49ers football players who graduated in December 2016. From left: Austin Duke; Jamal Covington; Brandon Banks; Lee McNeill; Stephen Muscarello; Casey Perry; Zach Bumgarner; Larry Ogunjobi; Thomas LaBianca; Jarred Barr; Matt Johnson; Cameron Curlings; Keaston Sinicki; Hayden Pezzoni.

By Decade

'80s	'90s	'00s	'10s
4	5	26	9

By Team

First	Second	Third
15	17	12

49ers Academic All-Americans

This fall, men's soccer player Callum Montgomery became the University's 44th Academic all-America. He joined a distinguished list of honorees dating back to 1984-85.

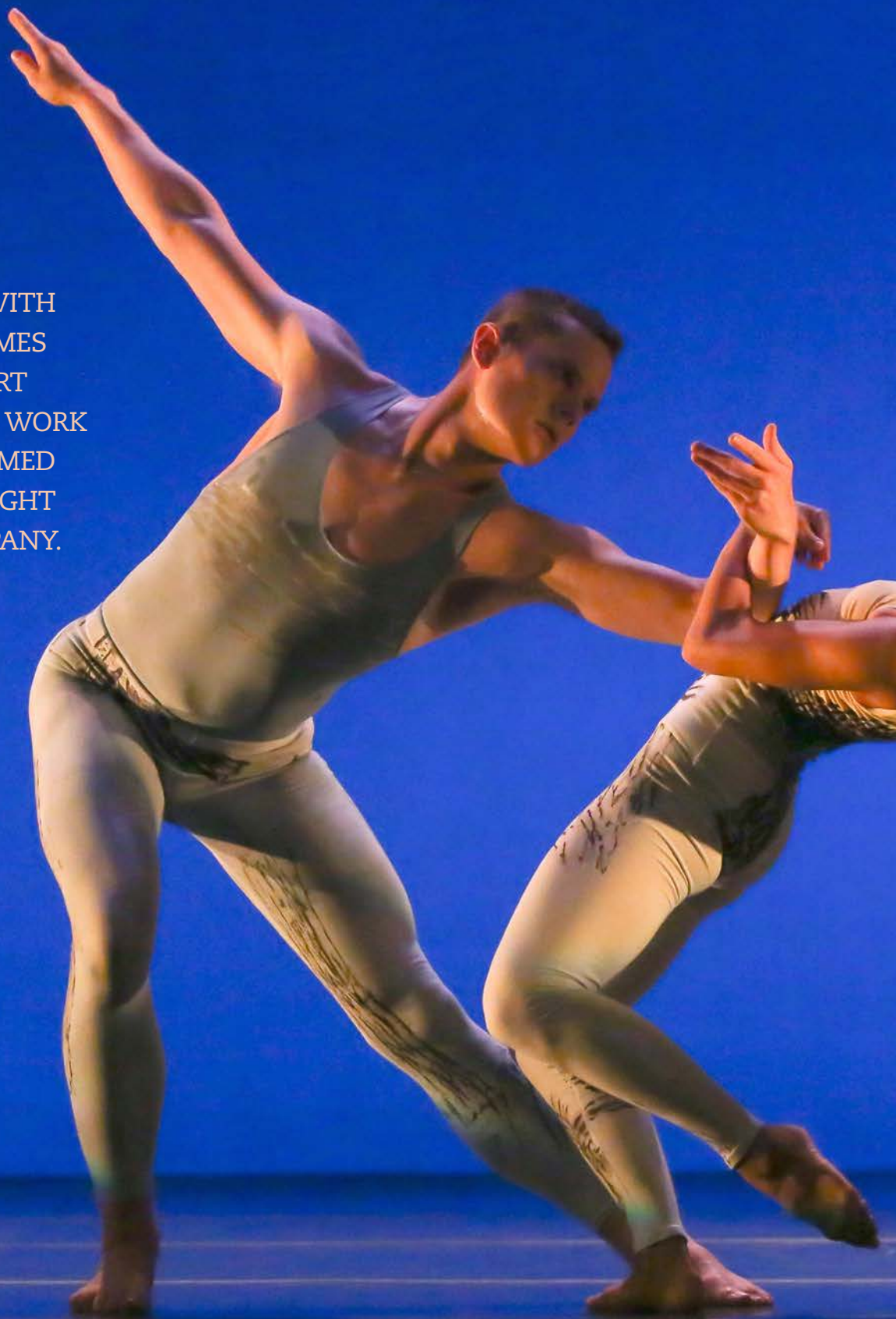
Note that the 2016-17 academic/athletic year is incomplete at this writing and that some Academic all-Americans changed their majors during their years at UNC Charlotte.

By Year

2016-17 (incomplete year)			
Name	Sport	Major	Team
Callum Montgomery	Soccer	Biology	Second
2015-16			
Lexi Betancourt	Softball	Exercise Science	Third
Haley Pace	Softball	Accounting	Third
2013-14			
Tyler Gibson	Men's Soccer	Marketing	Third
2012-13			
Shane Basen	Baseball	Accounting and Finance	First
2011-12			
Jason Roberts	Track and Field	Accounting	Second
Shane Basen	Baseball	Accounting and Finance	Second
Macey Ruble	Track and Field	Physics and Mathematics	Third
2010-11			
Darius Law	Track and Field	Business Management	First
2009-10			
Adam Gross	Soccer	Business Management	First
Hailey Beam	Soccer	Finance and Marketing	First
Corey Nagy	Golf	Psychology	Third
Darius Law	Track and Field	Business Management	First
2008-09			
Adam Gross	Soccer	Business Management	Third
Nikki (Labuda) Czaplicki	Soccer	Mathematical Finance	First
Hailey Beam	Soccer	Business Finance	Second
Darius Law	Track and Field	Accounting	Second
Lamarra Currie	Track and Field	Psychology	First
2007-08			
Lindsey (Beam) Ozimek	Soccer	Special Education	First
Lamarra Currie	Track and Field	Psychology	First
Jonas Enander Hedin	Golf	Business Management	Second
2006-07			
Lindsey (Beam) Ozimek	Soccer	Special Education	First

Nikki (Labuda) Czaplicki	Soccer	Mathematics & Economics	Second
Kelsie Ormsby	Soccer	Biology	Third
Jane Daniels	Track and Field	Biology	First
Sharonda Johnson	Track and Field	Chemistry	Second
2005-06			
Lindsey (Beam) Ozimek	Soccer	Special Education	Third
Cassie Ficken	Track and Field	Civil Engineering	Second
Mike Ambrose	Baseball	Psychology	First
Sharonda Johnson	Track and Field	Chemistry	Second
2003-04			
Lindsay Duncan	Soccer	Communication Studies	Third
Sharonda Johnson	Track and Field	Chemistry	Third
2001-02			
Jobey Thomas	Basketball	Communication Studies	Second
Ola Jonsson	Tennis	Business Management	First
2000-01			
Karin Levin	Track and Field	Elementary Education	Second
1997-98			
Jim Kunevicius	Soccer	Information Management	First
Tiffany Howard	Softball	International Business	Third
1996-97			
Jim Kunevicius	Soccer	Information Management	Second
1992-93			
Christopher Mark	Tennis	Electrical Engineering	Second
1991-92			
Christopher Mark	Tennis	Electrical Engineering	Second
1987-88			
Steve Wagoner	Baseball	Biology	Second
1985-86			
Craig Brown	Soccer	Economics	First
Steve Wagoner	Baseball	Biology	Second
1984-85			
Siobhan Riley	Tennis	Nursing	Third

CREATED IN 1962 WITH
SETS AND COSTUMES
BY ARTIST ROBERT
RAUSCHENBERG, THE WORK
WAS LAST PERFORMED
IN 1964 AND THOUGHT
LOST TO THE COMPANY.



Lost & Found

Kim Jones reconstructs
Paul Taylor work to benefit
students, audiences,
history of dance

BY MICHAEL J. SOLENDER

LATE LAST FALL, Charlotte-area dance enthusiasts experienced a performance at Robinson Hall that featured the work of internationally renowned choreographer Paul Taylor.

As audience members thrilled to the rebirth of his all but lost work “Tracer,” performed by the New York City-based Taylor 2 Dance Company, it’s unlikely many at the sold-out performance realized they were seeing the results of an extensive faculty research project.

Kim Jones certainly did. The College of Arts + Architecture associate professor of dance watched from the wings with a sense of deep satisfaction and accomplishment.

The reemergence of “Tracer” capped an 18-month reconstruction project led by Jones and represents an extraordinary collaboration among UNC Charlotte, Paul Taylor American Modern Dance and community partners in Charlotte.





Kim Jones (right) speaks with dancers at rehearsal. The reemergence of Paul Taylor's "Tracer" capped an 18-month reconstruction project led by Jones.

Seminal Artist

Leading the movement of postmodern choreographers during the early '60s, Taylor and his work demonstrated a creative intensity with "a direct kinesthetic impact, lifting the spectator to a state resembling a luminous cloud," said *Dance Magazine* in 1963. Taylor is one of the few remaining third-generation American modern dance masters and considered a seminal artist of his generation.

In 2015, Jones was approached by Taylor's company to reconstruct "Tracer." Created in 1962 with sets and costumes by artist Robert Rauschenberg, the work was last performed in 1964 and thought lost to the company with no recorded footage or accessible notes. The company tapped Jones after her successful reimagination and choreography of the lost 1935 Martha Graham solo work, "Imperial Gesture." This was the first time Taylor authorized an externally led reconstruction of his work.

Jones' sleuthing began with a semester-long research sabbatical where she spent weeks combing archives for clues at the Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the New York Public Library. Jones conducted dancer interviews and studied critical reviews, costume design, staging, music and still images. Her most significant discoveries, however, were made in Taylor's own archives.

"I found several reviews, the original Robert Rauschenberg costumes, six handwritten pages of Paul's detailed notes, and most amazingly, a reel of the original James Tenney score in the Taylor archives," Jones said. "The reel was given to a sound engineer who was able to extract and enhance a recording with excellent quality."

Taylor 2 Residency on Campus

Jones worked directly with Taylor's second company, Taylor 2, in New York. She subsequently fine-tuned the dance with the

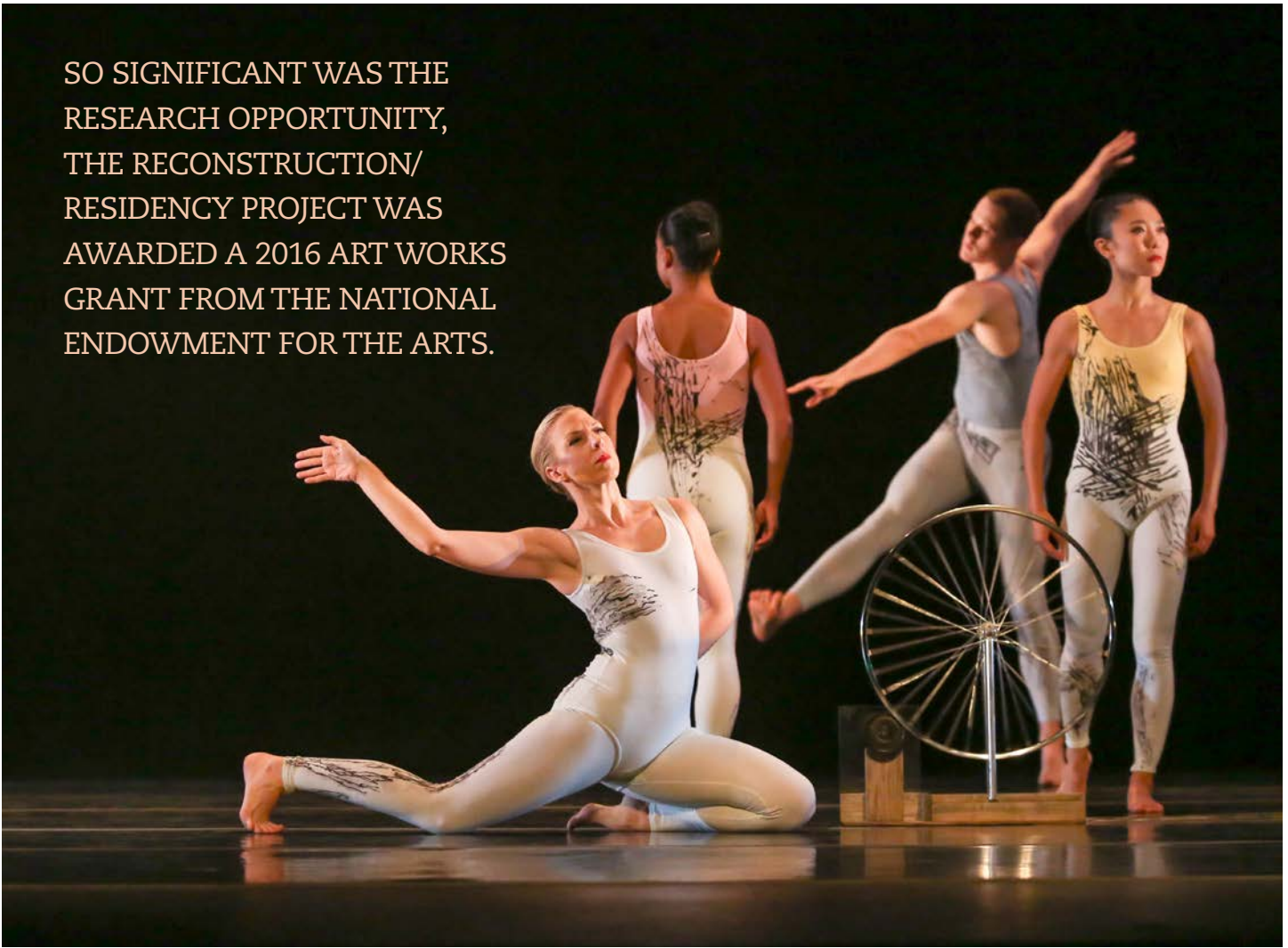
troupe during its three-week residency at UNC Charlotte. As part of the residency, the dancers and rehearsal director also worked directly with students, conducted master classes and held two public performances.

"The project had a great impact on our students," Jones said. "They were able to engage directly with professional artists in the studio, working on the nuances of style and rigor it takes to do the reconstruction and fine-tune details of the dance."

Jones developed two specific curriculum components for student learning as part of the project. "Our 'Performance Practicum' is a course where students learn choreography," she said. "Students perform the choreographic works in our biannual dance concert and learn what is behind producing a great show. With the 'Tracer' project, they got the chance to work with the Taylor 2 dancers and experience what's involved in staging work at this level."

Jones also collaborated with her former

SO SIGNIFICANT WAS THE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY, THE RECONSTRUCTION/ RESIDENCY PROJECT WAS AWARDED A 2016 ART WORKS GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.



professor at Florida State University, Tim Glenn, on a “Dance Documentation” course developed to take advantage of the detailed research involved in the reconstructive process. The coursework focused on student learning techniques and processes to document dance reconstruction, ranging from interviewing artists to editing raw video footage.

So significant was the research opportunity, the reconstruction/residency project was awarded a 2016 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The project also received an Arts & Science Council grant and a residency sponsorship from the Wells Fargo Foundation.

“The project fulfills three mandates of the University,” said Ann Dils, professor and chair of the Department of Dance at UNC Charlotte. “The project is a distinct and unique research opportunity; it creates unique curriculum to benefit students; and it addresses our responsibility to build community partnerships.”

Partnering with the Community

In bringing Taylor’s troupe to Charlotte, the University also facilitated opportunities for interaction with community partners. In April, Central Piedmont Community College and Charlotte Ballet are teaming up to bring the Paul Taylor Dance Company (main troupe) to Charlotte for the first time in 15 years.

The company will perform as part of the Sensoria Festival of the Arts, with a program that features “The Rite of Spring,” performed to live music, using the four-hand piano arrangement of composer Igor Stravinsky’s original orchestration.

Later this year, UNC Charlotte students will take “Tracer” into area middle and high schools, reaching out to local youth and demonstrating the beauty of arts education.

For Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, the “Tracer” project has been a resounding success. “It is incredibly

important to the art form that we not lose our past,” said John Tomlinson, executive director of the Paul Taylor Dance Company. “We started a repertory preservation project in 1992, and this project fits nicely with our ongoing efforts.”

“Tracer” is part of the Taylor 2 repertory and has already been performed for audiences in Providence, Rhode Island, and New York City. New York Times dance critic Alastair Macaulay gave the New York production a positive review, citing Jones as a “dance scholar” and noting the debut of the reconstructed piece occurred at UNC Charlotte.

“This project is important in many ways,” Jones said. “It is important to expose the American history of modern dance. It’s exciting to go behind the works done in the 20th century and explore how we respond to it. I’m incredibly proud to be a part of that.” ●



Confucius Institute Broadens University's Global Reach

Nonprofit will expand educational, cultural options

BY LYNN ROBERSON

A Confucius Institute will open at UNC Charlotte in summer 2017 to broaden the University's outreach and support for language instruction and cultural opportunities in the Charlotte community.

"The Confucius Institute will expand our offerings in Chinese language and culture, both on campus and in the community," said Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joan Lorden. "We look forward to the opportunities for unique cultural programming, study abroad and collaborative research that this new partnership will bring to Charlotte."

UNC Charlotte will establish the Confucius Institute within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies. UNC Charlotte is partnering with Shanxi University, a comprehensive university of arts and sciences located in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province.

"We see a growing demand for Chinese language instruction and cultural activities to better understand China, improve bilateral relations and better prepare students for future opportunities and challenges," said College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Dean Nancy Gutierrez. "We anticipate the Confucius Institute will work with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and other schools in the region to help students be better equipped to succeed in an increasingly globalized world."

Chinese instructors from Shanxi University would act as teaching assistants



Provost Joan Lorden (seated, right) presided over agreements to create a Confucius Institute at UNC Charlotte. The institute will help organizations and businesses gain greater access to Chinese language and cultural instruction.

at local K-12 schools, with supervision by the local schools.

Initial plans call for the public to be able to take advantage of community offerings, which could include conversation hours, films, seminars, lectures and artistic performances.

“Our partnership will also allow us to help organizations and businesses improve their international knowledge and gain greater access to Chinese language and cultural instruction,” Gutierrez said. “We anticipate offering educational courses to businesses, providing Chinese language testing and developing training courses for local school teachers.”

Long-term goals include potentially connecting UNC Charlotte students with Chinese scholarships for short-term or long-term study abroad programs in China and offering students from Shanxi University the opportunity to study at UNC Charlotte through selected collaborative agreements.

Meeting the needs of the broader community is critical, Gutierrez said. The Chinese population in the Charlotte region has shown significant growth with a 168 percent rise in population between 2000 and 2014. Local schools have responded with Chinese language classes, and the Carolinas Chinese Chamber of Commerce in 2015 led a 40-representative delegation from the Carolinas for a two-week business trip to China to explore potential collaborations.

Another trip is planned for 2017.

Two directors – one from UNC Charlotte and one from Shanxi University – will manage the Confucius Institute and report to a Board of Directors to be chaired by Gutierrez. The board will include Lorden, Chancellor Philip L. Dubois, Assistant Provost for International Programs Joël Gallegos and other campus, community and Chinese leaders.

The University hosted a grand opening ceremony Wednesday, March 29, in Cone University Center, McKnight Hall, to celebrate the partnership.

Nonprofit Confucius Institutes operate with support from a host university and from Hanban, also known as the Office of Chinese Language Council International (CLCI), a Chinese Ministry of Education subsidiary. UNC Charlotte and Hanban will share in the funding of the Confucius Institute.

There are more than 100 Confucius Institutes in the United States, including ones at North Carolina State University, the University of South Carolina, the University of Maryland and Michigan State University. ●

Lynn Roberson is director of communication for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

PICTURE THIS

The evolution of UNC Charlotte's campus continues this year as several new facilities and memorable spaces begin to take shape.

1 University Recreation Center

The University Recreation Center will rise at Cameron Boulevard and Craver Road, beside the Popp Martin Student Union.

Some of the highlighted spaces in the facility include:

- Indoor pool with zero depth entry, lap swim area, space for hydro fitness classes and leisure pool activities.
- Four multi-purpose courts for a variety of open play and structured rec activities.
- A variety of strength and cardiovascular training opportunities are offered at multiple levels throughout the facility.
- Multi-purpose studios for Group Fitness activities including Cycling, Zumba, Yoga, high intensity training classes and many more.
- Locker rooms with private showers and changing areas
- Administrative offices for Recreational Services, which will allow for one-stop service for recreation-related needs.

2 Counseling Center

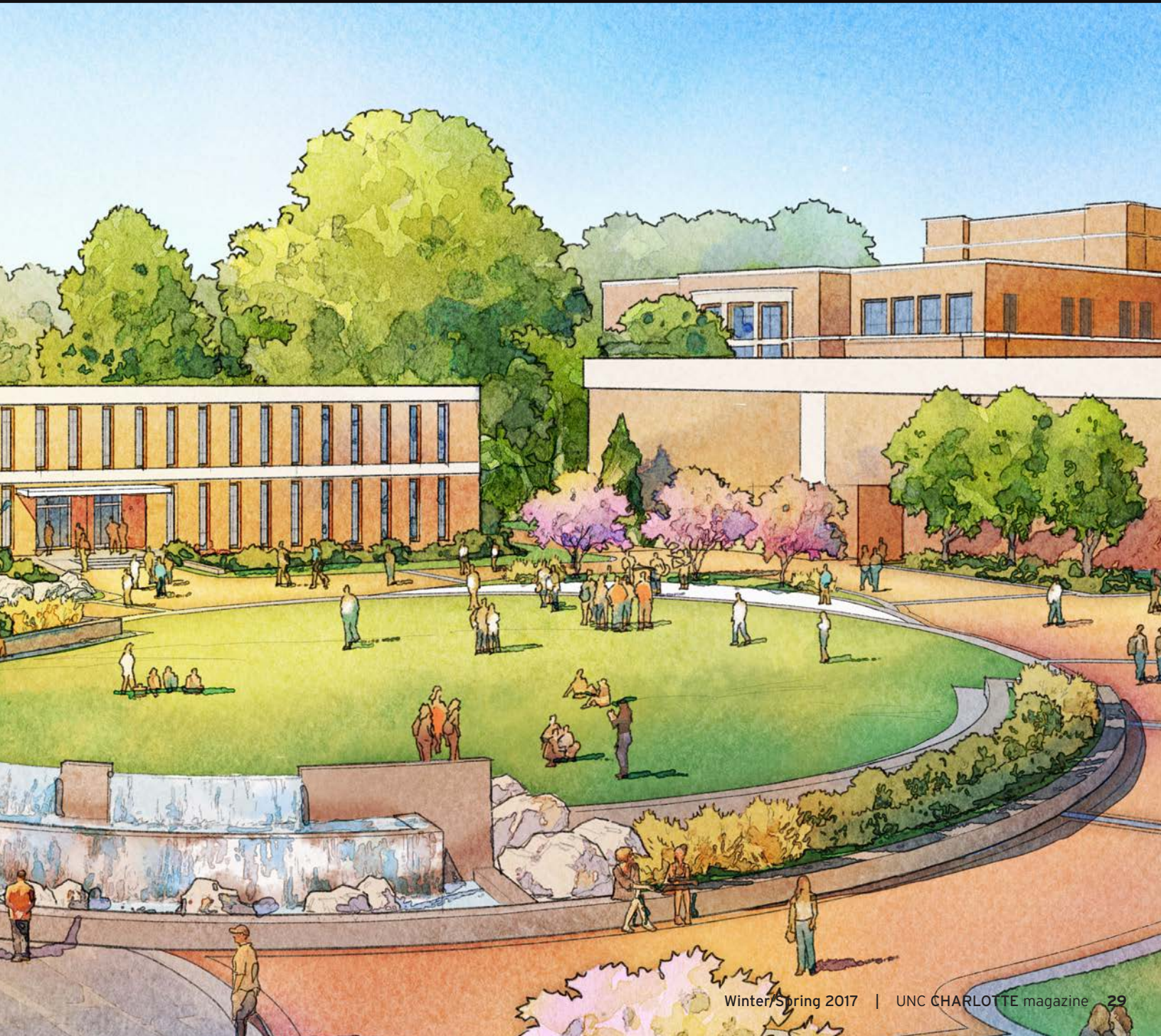
A new Counseling Center (top, right), slated to open next August, will serve students who are seeking counseling services at an increasing rate. Located adjacent to the existing Student Health Center, the new building also will allow closer collaboration with the Student Health Center and the Center for Wellness Promotion.

3 Belk Plaza

The revitalized Belk Plaza will begin taking shape in June. An oval-shaped great lawn, adorned with a raised-rock fountain will provide opportunities for people to gather, along with spaces for activities. This view looks toward the Willingham Building, with Rowe to the right. Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts appears in the rear.



2



Camino Community Center in Charlotte's University City neighborhood provides health and social support to low-income, uninsured people in Mecklenburg County.



3 Colleges, 1 Community Collaboration

UNIVERSITY STEPS
UP TO AID PEOPLE
WITH MENTAL
HEALTH NEEDS

BY MELBA NEWSOME

Three UNC Charlotte colleges have formed an interdisciplinary partnership to confront a growing but largely unmet need in the Charlotte community.

Faculty members and students from the Cato College of Education, College of Health and Human Services and College of Liberal Arts & Sciences are working with the Camino Community Center's Bethesda Health Center to provide a community-based mental health improvement program for low-income and immigrant families. It is the first such initiative in the country and has become a national model for other colleges and universities.

When Daniel Gutierrez arrived at UNC Charlotte in 2014, he quickly realized that Charlotte's fast-growing Latino



Daniel
Gutierrez



community had a high uninsured rate and was in dire need of mental health care. An assistant professor of counseling, Gutierrez approached his research mentor, Mark DeHaven, the Dean Colvard Distinguished Professor in the College of Health and Human Services, about finding a way to bridge this widening mental health gulf for the area's immigrant community.

DeHaven also serves as director of the Academy for Research on Community Health, Engagement and Services, which uses action or community-based participatory research (CBPR) to improve health in vulnerable communities, while simultaneously building a "communiversity" to support its students. "The first principle of CBPR is working with the community; the second is the expectation of a long-term commitment there," said DeHaven.

Marshaling Resources

Having worked with Camino and Bethesda, a collaborative of health and welfare volunteers serving Mecklenburg's uninsured population, DeHaven knew that the lack of mental health care was a significant issue he believed could be addressed by marshaling resources from across the University.

"We saw a substantial unmet need in Charlotte and wanted to do something about it," said Gutierrez. "By 2050, about 30 percent



of the population will be Hispanic or Latino but, even though they have the same pathology as everyone else, they are the second-least likely to access mental health services."

When Gutierrez and DeHaven visited the clinic, Executive Director Wendy Pascual explained that she had 85 people waiting for mental health care. "Many have experienced or witnessed severe trauma such as war, physical and sexual violence or prolonged exposure to verbal and emotional abuse," explained Pascual.

While many of the patients come to the

TOP: Camino Community Center is a free health clinic that provides adult primary care, diabetes and hypertension management, and health education programs.

BELOW: UNC Charlotte provided healthy snacks to Camino clients as part of a 2015 free health risk-screening event.



Graduate students from the UNC Charlotte College of Health and Human Services administer free health risk screenings to Camino clients. The screenings included a lifestyle questionnaire, body composition, blood pressure, blood lipid profile, and blood sugar measurements.

“BY 2050, ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION WILL BE HISPANIC OR LATINO BUT, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE THE SAME PATHOLOGY AS EVERYONE ELSE, THEY ARE THE SECOND-LEAST LIKELY TO ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.”

free clinic seeking care for ailments such as diabetes or high blood pressure, some also exhibit undiagnosed forms of depression and mental trauma. These emotional issues make it more difficult to effectively treat their physical health problems. “At one point, about 85 percent of the folks in this community were experiencing some level of depression, high levels of anxiety and then high levels of trauma,” noted Gutierrez.

Within two months, DeHaven and Gutierrez had joined forces with Amy Peterman, associate professor in the

Department of Psychological Science, and School of Social Work clinician Roger Suclupe. What emerged was a unique community partnership. Each college now uses its expertise to enhance their students’ cultural competence, carry out the University’s community service mission and reduce the clinic’s growing backlog of mental health patients.

“My students are training in the biopsychosocial model, the interaction of biological, psychological and social factors that affect health and illness,” said Peterman. “We place students at many sites but this is a practicum opportunity where Spanish-speaking students can provide therapy in Spanish and work with that population.”

Determining how people flow into the program and what services will be available falls into the domain of public health at the College of Health and Human Services. A public health doctoral student developed flow algorithms and procedures as well as oversees the evaluation of the program’s effectiveness.



Camino Community Center has served more than 3,500 patients and provided health fairs as well as more than 8,500 doctor visits since it opened its doors in 2004.

Social work students aid patients with a wide range of needs, such as assisting with food, veterans' benefits and housing needs.

Handling Cases

Suclupe provides clinical oversight for some of the counseling students working with Spanish-speaking clients. "We staff cases like a clinical supervisor, discussing difficulties the student counselor may have, treatment plans and the needs of the community/patient," he said. "We want students to connect with and provide support for a community that has a limited availability of resources. We talk a lot about these problems, but we're doing something about them for the first time."

During the pilot phase, 80 people with mental health needs went through the program. Seventy percent of them completed it, a dramatically high rate given that, generally, only 20 to 30 percent of such patients tend to finish prescribed sessions.

While some people have expressed concern that these services are being provided by students, DeHaven is quick to point out that this same model is used in academia all across the country. "Students are very capable of delivering high quality care," he said. "When you seek care at any of the country's leading academic health centers, you're being treated by medical students and residents under the direction of an attending physician. This is no different."

Counseling, social work and health psychology had not worked together previously, primarily because of their different missions and approaches. However, these programs in their respective colleges set aside any rivalries and/or separate descriptive approaches to find a common, workable solution to a looming crisis.

"At the root of all three colleges is the desire to be part of the caring professions, to restore people to health and wholeness," said DeHaven. "There is this tremendous emphasis on accentuating the differences, but when we focus on what unites us instead of the ways we're different, we can really accomplish something good."

Noted Pascual, "The mental health program helps our patients with quality of life. It lets them know there are others who can support them and that others suffer from mental health issues, too." ●



Larry Ogunjobi, a first generation American, earned a computer science major while also becoming a star collegiate football player. At press time, Ogunjobi was expected to be selected in the NFL draft.

COMPUTE THIS!

49ers football standout Larry Ogunjobi excels in the classroom, eyes NFL draft

BY CLARK CURTIS

Much of Niner Nation knows UNC Charlotte senior Larry Ogunjobi from his impressive career as a defensive lineman for the Charlotte 49ers football team — as well they should. He's the only active player to start all 46 games in the program's history, and he's the team's career leader in tackles (212), tackles for loss (49) and sacks (13).

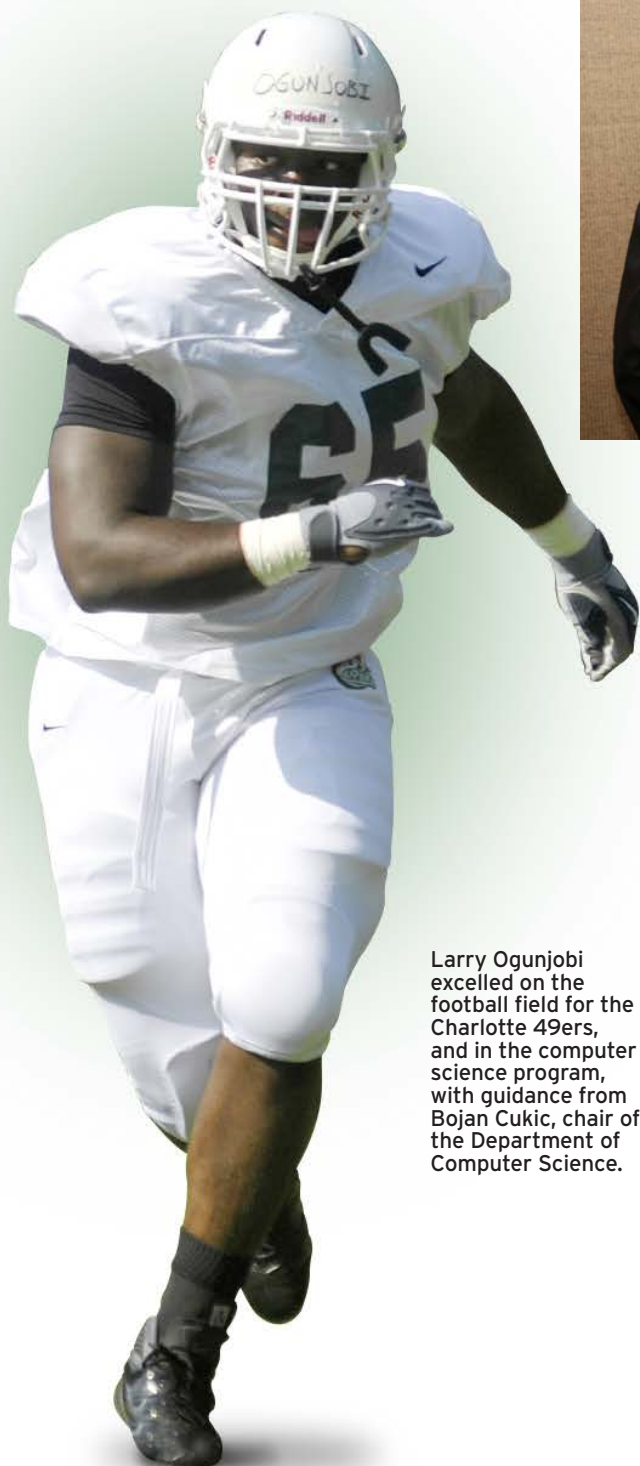
Yet, summarizing Ogunjobi's career only by the work he's accomplished in Jerry Richardson Stadium would be capturing only half the story. For as great as Ogunjobi was on the football field, his academic prowess was equally noteworthy — which says a lot since he could become the first player in program history selected in the NFL draft, to

be held April 27-29.

A self-proclaimed perfectionist, Ogunjobi is driven by his constant desire to excel. "For me, I always want to be the best, so I asked myself why I couldn't be really good in the classroom and really good on the football field," he said. "I never wanted to put myself in a box, so as a student-athlete, I focused on being the best student and athlete I could be."

Because of his affinity for computers, Ogunjobi majored in computer science with a concentration in computing systems. He earned that degree in December. He also is working on a biology degree, following in the footsteps of his mother and father who work in the medical field. He

“HE SELECTED ONE OF THE MOST DEMANDING CONCENTRATIONS WITHIN THE COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM AND COMPLETED ALL REQUIREMENTS ON TIME, WITH HARD WORK AND INTEGRITY.”



Larry Ogunjobi excelled on the football field for the Charlotte 49ers, and in the computer science program, with guidance from Bojan Cukic, chair of the Department of Computer Science.



may finish that after what he hopes is a “long” pro football career.

“Occasionally, universities are suspected to be ‘diploma mills’ for members of sports teams,” said Bojan Cukic, chair of the Department of Computer Science. “As a result, students like Larry feel additional burden about their scholarly performance. He selected one of the most demanding concentrations within the computer science degree program and completed all requirements on time, with hard work and integrity. While I wish him a long NFL career, he will have great career opportunities as a computer science graduate.”

For Ogunjobi, that sharp contrast is what makes him so unusual. It’s what makes him who he is — a college graduate with one degree, another degree possible and a passion for football. A passion he hopes might land him in the NFL, but if not, Ogunjobi will be just fine.

“I’m really proud of Larry and how he handled himself in all aspects of his collegiate career — athletically, academically (and) as a team leader and cornerstone,” said Brad Lambert, the 49ers head football coach.

“He worked extremely hard to make himself a really strong player,” Lambert continues. “He’s been a very productive player for us over our last four years. He helped lay the foundation for us, along with the rest of the senior class. His work ethic, specifically, has really helped elevate our football program. He’s been a rock in building this program, and that’s set us up for good things in the future. He’s everything you want in a student-athlete.” ●

Clark Curtis is director of communications in the College of Computing and Informatics.



Cathy Bessant and Kathy Reichs engaged the audience in a lively conversation at the gift announcement held at UNC Charlotte Center City.

Bank of America makes generous gift to **EXPONENTIAL**

BY PAUL NOWELL

Bank of America is committing \$1.5 million to the Exponential Campaign to support research at UNC Charlotte in the Data Science Initiative and to sponsor a series of marquee lectures at the University.

The donation establishes an endowed fund supporting the Data Science Initiative and creates an Endowed Chair in Security Analytics, which positions UNC Charlotte at the center of the data analytics revolution.

The endowed chair position will also strengthen the leadership and impact of UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte region

within the North Carolina Data Science initiative. Research in security analytics will create synergies within the College of Computing and Informatics' existing strengths in the Center of Configuration Analytics and Automation, and Charlotte Visualization Center, as well as UNC Charlotte's campus-wide Data Science Initiative.

"Bank of America is pleased to build upon its longstanding partnership with UNC Charlotte," said Bank of America Charlotte Market President Charles Bowman. "The University is central to Charlotte's role as a hub for innovation, a center for civic engagement,

and a region focused on leading the way in information technology."

In honor of the gift, UNC Charlotte has named the atrium of the UNC Charlotte Center City for Bank of America.

Educational programs in security analytics will help address the severe talent shortage in this field by educating the next generation of strategic thinkers, thought leaders, and security professionals to make risk-based decisions using data-driven evidence, deep technical knowledge, and the ability to take proactive security actions.

Data science is designed to help businesses

“EVEN IF WE WEREN’T LOCATED IN CHARLOTTE, WE WOULD WORK AGGRESSIVELY WITH UNC CHARLOTTE BECAUSE THE TALENT AND ENERGY THEY PUT BEHIND (THE DATA SCIENCE PROGRAM) PUTS THEM AT THE FOREFRONT OF SOME OF THIS THINKING.”

— Cathy Bessant



Applied Technology Program students enjoy the gift announcement reception in the newly named second floor Bank of America Atrium at UNC Charlotte Center City.



The gift announcement drew a large crowd, including (from left) UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees Chair Joe Price, Vice Chancellor and Provost Joan Lorden, alumnus and Exponential Campaign Chair Gene Johnson and Bank of America's Julie Harris.

and governments alike make responsible decisions about and protect rising amounts of individual information. The discipline of data science combines aspects of computer science, modeling, applied mathematics and statistics.

UNC Charlotte is surrounded by top financial services, energy, retail sales and distribution, advanced manufacturing, and technology companies that provide an ideal

environment to utilize a suite of skills only an urban research university can accommodate.

“I think UNC Charlotte is really unsung but an incredible data science and engineering hub,” said Cathy Bessant, Bank of America chief operations and technology officer. “Even if we weren’t located in Charlotte, we would work aggressively with UNC Charlotte because the talent and the energy they put

behind (the data science program) puts them at the forefront of some of this thinking. We have some of the best professors in the world in informatics.”

A portion of the gift will sponsor the UNC Charlotte Civic Series presented by Bank of America, which includes three marquee lectures: The Chancellor’s Speaker Series, the Barnhardt Seminar on Ethics, and the TIAA Lecture.

“Bank of America has been a steadfast partner to UNC Charlotte in so many ways for almost 50 years, with volunteer participation on the Board of Trustees, endowed professorships and support for the creation and implementation of the Applied Technology Program,” said Chancellor Philip L. Dubois. “We are excited that Bank of America is once again expanding its partnership with the University to support the Data Science Initiative, along with a series of important public lecture events. We are very appreciative that we enjoy the continuing confidence of the bank’s leadership in the work of our faculty, staff and students.”

The Chancellor’s Speaker Series celebrates the University’s role as our region’s thought leader and brings nationally renowned speakers to the area to speak on current issues.

The Barnhardt Seminar on Ethics is forum for discussion on business realities and their ethical implications for society. Attendees are business professionals, community leaders, and UNC Charlotte faculty, staff, and students.

The TIAA Lecture is an endowed lecture and hosts distinguished and notable speakers on a variety of topics.

To showcase the caliber of the Civic Series, the University hosted a program featuring a discussion between noted author, forensic anthropologist and professor Kathy Reichs and Bank of America Chief Operations and Technology Officer Cathy Bessant at the UNC Charlotte Center City.

Reichs is as a professor in the Anthropology Department at UNC Charlotte. She also is the producer of the television series “Bones,” which is based on her work and novels. ●

Public Service Passion

BY JENNIFER HOWE

Internships in Politics Lead to Great Experiences, Career Opportunities

Many UNC Charlotte alumni serve in public office on city, county, state and national levels. Some were elected, while others were appointed or hired in support positions. UNC Charlotte students are following in their footsteps. Here are stories of two recent graduates and two current students who are taking advantage of internship opportunities and other programs to pursue their passion for public service.

“IF A CONSTITUENT
IN OUR DISTRICT
HAS AN ISSUE
WITH A FEDERAL
AGENCY, IT IS MY
JOB TO CORRESPOND
WITH THE AGENCY
AND HELP THE
CONSTITUENT FIND
A SOLUTION.”

— Julia Lopez

Julia Lopez (left) was on campus recently, touring the PORTAL facility.

She is pictured here with (from left) Ventureprise President Paul Wetenhall, U.S. Rep. Alma Adams, Vice Chancellor Robert Wilhelm and Henry Rock, Founder and Executive Director of City Startup Labs.



Julia Lopez ('14)

After graduating from UNC Charlotte in December 2014 with bachelor's degrees in economics, English and political science, Julia Lopez served as an intern for U.S.

Rep. Alma Adams (N.C. 12th District).

One of her first assignments was to assist in creating a Small Business Symposium where entrepreneurs and small business owners could learn how to grow and obtain access to capital.

The education she received at UNC Charlotte helped her succeed at her internship and aided her in gaining a full-

time position serving as a district liaison for the congresswoman.

“My UNC Charlotte education definitely helped me learn how to write and think critically — two skills that have been invaluable working in public service,” Lopez said.

In her current role, Lopez maintains relationships between Adams and constituents within the district. It is her responsibility to know the state of the district with regard to such issues as small businesses, immigration and hunger initiatives, to name a few. The information she gathers allows Adams to know which topics she needs to address on Capitol Hill.

“If a constituent in our district has an issue with a federal agency, it is my job to correspond with the agency and help the constituent find a solution,” Lopez said. “If a disabled veteran is having issues receiving benefits, I would contact the Department of Veteran Affairs on behalf of the constituent.”

Getting involved with government and public service was something Lopez had envisioned for herself. She enjoys helping people and advocating for their rights. One memorable assignment involved assisting Adams in the struggle to prevent a teenager from being deported.

“When he was captured by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), he was barely 19 and was in detention for over eight months,” said Lopez, who visited him in the detention center. “He was escaping threats from gangs in El Salvador that endangered his life. This kid had no criminal record and was a good student at his school, but had to drop out because of rumors that they were picking up kids to be deported back to Central America.”

The case allowed her to experience how the immigration process works. Her team worked hard in Washington, D.C., and in Charlotte to contact the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and ICE to keep the teenager in Charlotte. While the outcome wasn’t what Lopez hoped for — the teen was deported back to El Salvador — the experience solidified that public service was the field for her.

Lopez advises current UNC Charlotte students who are contemplating a career in public service to secure an internship while in school and to find their own niche.

“Network, network, network,” Lopez said. “Attend community events and volunteer. You never know who you will meet. Eat breakfast and always keep a blazer in your car.”



Bailey Russell

Three days after finishing exams last May, Bailey Russell moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, to begin her internship in the office of N.C. Rep. Jason Saine ('95). The political science and economics major, who is minoring in legal studies, had to get situated quickly in her new city. The short session of the state legislature had already begun.

In landing the internship, Russell followed her mother’s suggestion to contact her hometown representative’s office (District 97). Her mom had grown up with Saine in Lincolnton, North Carolina, and both families had attended the same church at one time. While talking with him on the phone, Bailey discovered that they had both served on the same student government committee at UNC Charlotte, though years apart.

Her student government background came in handy while working in Raleigh. “My experience writing legislation in student government was extremely helpful,” she said. “Student government prepared me to know how to communicate with different people and how to disagree with others’ political opinions gracefully.”

The assignments she worked on during the summer internship varied. Her favorite projects were the ones that dealt with her hometown of Denver, North Carolina, along with those that affected UNC Charlotte. “I loved whenever legislation was dealing with something I could

Bailey Russell (center) interned with another Lincolnton native and UNC Charlotte alumnus, N.C. Rep. Jason Saine. She is pictured here with (from left) alums N.C. Rep. Bill Brawley, former Rep. Mike Hager, Saine and Chancellor Dubois.

“STUDENT
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WITH DIFFERENT
PEOPLE AND HOW
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GRACEFULLY.”

— Bailey Russell

relate to,” Russell said. “It was unreal to receive emails regarding legislation and house bills from names I knew and recognized personally.”

She appreciated the number of UNC Charlotte alumni and administrators she met during her internship. They included Rep. Bill Brawley ('78), co-chair of the House Finance Committee, and Mike Hager ('87), now a former

representative and majority leader. She also had the opportunity to speak with Chancellor Philip L. Dubois on one of his visits to Raleigh and to spend time with Betty Doster, special assistant to the chancellor, who explained which pieces of legislation would affect UNC Charlotte and the other colleges and universities in the UNC system.



“OUR STUDENT TEAM RECEIVED SO MUCH ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FROM FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS, AND OUR EFFORTS WERE GREATLY BOLSTERED BY THEIR PRESENCE.”

— Vincent Cahill



Vincent Cahill

Vincent Cahill (second from left in photo) served as an Andrew Goodman Foundation Vote Everywhere Ambassador. He educates his UNC Charlotte peers on the importance of exercising their right to vote.

In fall 2015, junior chemistry, economics and political science major Vincent Cahill was selected as an Andrew Goodman Foundation Vote Everywhere Ambassador. In this role, he helps college students develop strategic organizing skills while advocating for their community’s voting and civil rights. Student ambassadors receive a stipend, activities budget and ongoing mentorship, support and training from the foundation’s staff and network of social-change leaders.

As an ambassador, Cahill educates his peers at UNC Charlotte on the importance of exercising their right to vote. Working alongside the UNC Charlotte 49er Democracy Experience — a team of expert faculty, civic-minded students and community partners who support understanding and participating in the nation’s democratic process — Cahill helped register more than 750

students to vote prior to the March 2016 North Carolina primary.

“The experience demonstrated the degree to which the University and the administration support its students’ endeavors,” said Cahill. “Our student team received so much advice and guidance from faculty, staff and administration members, and our efforts were greatly bolstered by their presence.”

The main goal for the 2016 fall semester was to ensure that local and state election boards would select UNC Charlotte as an early voting location. Cahill felt that bringing a polling place to campus would increase access for students and inspire a heightened sense of civic engagement. He worked with the 49er Democracy Experience and the Division of University Advancement to secure the selection, which ultimately resulted in approximately 8,500 voters casting ballots on the UNC Charlotte campus in the November general election.

Before ballots were cast, the 49er Democracy

Experience orchestrated faculty-moderated, pre-debate discussions and hosted debate-watch parties. Cahill was encouraged by his fellow students' excitement as they packed into the Popp Martin Student Union Movie Theater, filling every seat and creating makeshift spots on the ground to participate in the watch parties.

"I quickly learned that our work was most effective when we engaged with students who are similarly passionate about contributing to a more engaged campus climate," said Cahill. "It took a lot of practice for our team, but understanding how to effectively build diverse, productive coalitions was one of the most critical components of our advocacy."

The ambassadorship will end upon graduation (May 2017); it has been one of the highlights of Cahill's collegiate experience — one he won't forget when he goes to work as a litigation legal assistant with the New York law office of Davis Polk & Wardell.

"My time as a Vote Everywhere Ambassador has confirmed the personal satisfaction that I feel when I help an individual register to vote or direct them towards a polling location," Cahill said. "I truly enjoy this aspect of civic engagement, and I expect to continue this work for the rest of my life."



Regi Simpson ('13)

When Richard Hudson ('96) announced his race to represent North Carolina's 8th Congressional District, Regi Simpson was serving as president of the UNC Charlotte College Republicans. Soon after, she secured an internship on his campaign and worked hard to get the former UNC Charlotte student body president elected through the primary, run-off and general elections.

"Once elected congressman, Rep. Hudson asked if I would be interested joining his Concord district office as an intern," said Simpson. "I happily accepted."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science in May 2013, she became the staff assistant in Hudson's Washington, D.C., office and by February 2014 was promoted to scheduler. In this role, she handled meeting details, briefings, events and travel for Hudson. She also briefed him on scheduling activities and acted as a liaison with staff, committees, constituents and government officials. In July 2015, she became Hudson's executive assistant.



"Working for Congressman Hudson has been one of the most rewarding opportunities of my life," she said.

In January 2016, Simpson moved on to become assistant to Rob Engstrom, senior vice president and national political director at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business organization by membership. The U.S. Chamber represents more than three million business members of all sizes, sectors and regions.

"Our job is to serve as a voice for the business community in Washington, D.C.," said Simpson. "We support the free enterprise system and advocate for business-friendly policies that encourage job creation, economic growth and relieve regulatory burdens faced by our business community."

Working in the Political Affairs and Federation Relations Department, she helps elect candidates (incumbents and challengers) to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate who will support pro-business policies.

The road of public service is not easy, Simpson noted, but it's important. Her core values help guide her through challenging times, and the educational foundation she received at UNC Charlotte shapes her cognitive skills. "Each individual has the opportunity to be a positive influence and ensure the world is a better place after they have made their imprint," she said. ●

Regi Simpson (left) secured an internship and then a staff position with fellow alumnus U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson, after she served as president of the UNC Charlotte College Republicans.

"WORKING FOR CONGRESSMAN HUDSON HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES OF MY LIFE."

— Regi Simpson



Loy Witherspoon beams as his portrait is unveiled by Angie Gay (right) and the artist, Jamie Lee McMahan.

IN MEMORY OF LOY WITHERSPOON, Renowned Scholar, Mentor

Loy H. Witherspoon, professor emeritus of philosophy and religious studies at UNC Charlotte and a longtime confidant to University founder Bonnie Cone, died on Jan. 15, in his Charlotte home.

The founding chair of the Department of Religious Studies, Witherspoon retired in 1994 after 30 years of distinguished service at the University. For more than a decade after his retirement, he continued to teach at UNC Charlotte, and he remained active in a range of community and academic service projects.

“Loy was truly a legendary teacher and a mentor to his colleagues and scores of students, and he was one of the most active members of the campus community,” said UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip L. Dubois, who had known Witherspoon since the early 1990s when

Dubois was UNC Charlotte’s provost. “He was a much-loved colleague who always had time and a kind word for anyone. Lisa and I will miss him very much.”

The Loy H. Witherspoon Lecture in Religious Studies began in 1984 in honor of his 20th anniversary, and is now the University’s oldest and most prestigious endowed lecture series. The 33rd annual event was held Feb. 6 on the topic of “Neighboring Faiths: Jews, Christians and Muslims.”

At an unveiling of Witherspoon’s portrait in the Harris Alumni Center at Johnson Glen, Dubois recalled when Cone “recruited Loy Witherspoon, she was looking for a builder – and a builder she got.”

Cone assigned him the tasks of building programs in philosophy and religious studies.

She also asked him to create an organization to coordinate the work of campus chaplains and student religious organizations. The new organization was called the Office of Religious Affairs.

A 1969 recipient of the University’s highest recognition for teaching, the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence, Witherspoon was described as a great teacher, caring counselor, skilled ombudsman, host, patron, politician, public relations practitioner and troubleshooter. Witherspoon also served as college chaplain and on practically every University committee.

Under his leadership, the Department of Religious Studies grew from a handful of courses to a full-fledged degree program. Witherspoon also was instrumental in establishing campus

“HE ALWAYS HAS HAD AMBITIONS FOR UNC CHARLOTTE, AND SO HIS WORK EVEN IN THE EARLY DAYS WAS PREDICATED ON ITS BECOMING THE GREAT INSTITUTION IT IS TODAY.”

Nancy Gutierrez, dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

governance. He was the first chairperson of the University Senate, twice served as president of the faculty and was University marshal from 1988 to 1993.

“Loy Witherspoon embodied the values and aspirations of UNC Charlotte,” said Nancy Gutierrez, dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. “All of his efforts have gone to creating the University of the future. The University of the 1960s and 1970s was a pretty small, parochial kind of place. Yet, in his mind, Loy never worked in that small place. He always has had ambitions for UNC Charlotte, and so his work even in the early days was predicated on its becoming the great institution it is today.”

As the first chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion when it formed in 1964, Witherspoon created a lasting foundation that allowed both disciplines to flourish, Gutierrez said. He also served as the first chair of the independent Department of Religious Studies when it formed in 1972.

“He was instrumental in bringing endowed professorships to the University,” Gutierrez said. “The University’s first named, endowed lecture series bears his name. Hundreds of Loy’s friends, colleagues and former students showed their love and respect for Loy by creating the fund in his honor in 1984, and he faithfully continued to support and attend these important community lectures.

“Witherspoon showed his dedication to students in deep, lasting ways,” she said. “He was the mentor and supporter of many students. He brought the fraternity system here and was a mentor to those students and sent them off into the world prepared as scholars and as people. He was this amazing teacher. He had a vision, but he was also very practical. Sometimes he gave students money out of his pocket. He gave scholarships. He was always interested in the physical and spiritual well-being of the students.”

Gutierrez counts Witherspoon as a mentor and inspiration. “I am so glad I had the opportunity to know him,” she said. “If there is nothing else I have gained from moving to



Loy Witherspoon (front, center) inspired long-lasting bonds with former students. Here he is joined by (front row, from left) Pat Palmquist, Greg Ross, David Ravin and (top row, from left) Mark Joyce, Michael Wilson, David Gay, Jack Stack, Scott Boulware and Kevin McLemore.

UNC Charlotte, knowing Loy Witherspoon is one of my greatest personal benefits.”

After, his retirement Witherspoon remained engaged with the University and the awards and accolades continued to come.

In 2001, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the UNC Charlotte Board of Trustees. That same year, the University chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha, for which he had served as faculty adviser, endowed a scholarship that bears his name for a religious studies major.

The Loy H. Witherspoon Greek Alumni Scholarship was established in 2012 to honor the work done by Witherspoon to establish the current Greek system at the University. It is used to provide scholarship assistance to undergraduate members of UNC Charlotte fraternities or sororities.

The Loy Witherspoon Distinguished Service Award, is presented annually by the Cooperative Christian Ministry. The 2016 award was given to Elizabeth Hardin, vice chancellor for business affairs. She serves as a board member and

campus advisor for the ministry, which is known as Niner United at UNC Charlotte.

Witherspoon received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Faculty Award in 1993 and the Alumni by Choice Award (now called the Honorary Alumnus(na) Award in 1995. Witherspoon Hall, a 420-bed residence facility, opened in 1990 and has long been the home for students in the University’s honors program.

Witherspoon, who also was an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, earned his bachelor and divinity degrees from Duke University and his doctorate from Boston University.

Witherspoon grew up in Winston-Salem in the Methodist Children’s Home after both his parents died when he was a small child. Following his Duke education, Witherspoon went to teach philosophy and religion at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. There he met his lifelong friend and companion, William Pfischner, M.D. ●

THE ART OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Jackson reflects on 10 years as a leader, vice chancellor

BY PAUL NOWELL

In 2007, Arthur Jackson was appointed UNC Charlotte's vice chancellor for student affairs. During his tenure, he has provided leadership to improve retention, graduation rates, diversity and the University's response to First Amendment issues of demonstrations on campus and elsewhere. He also has served as an associate graduate professor of education.

After 10 years as vice chancellor, Jackson is retiring this summer.

A career administrator at colleges and universities from Virginia to Massachusetts, Jackson came to UNC Charlotte with a proven record of accomplishment in counseling, admissions, financial aid and student affairs. He connects with students and top administrators alike.

Jackson also has been a professor in multicultural education and higher education administration for the past 24 years. He has lectured at Brown University, Springfield College, Central Connecticut State University, Cornell University and the University of Maryland.

He has served as the North Carolina state director for Region III for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Jackson was awarded the Distinguished Accomplishment Award and Pillar of the Profession honor by this organization. He is a member of Rotary Club International, the Golden Key Honor Society and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

Jackson recently sat down with University Communications writer Paul Nowell to reflect on his decade of service at UNC Charlotte and to look to the future.

So when do you officially retire?

Officially, my last day is sometime in July 2017, but I plan to stay on for about a week

After 10 years as vice chancellor for Student Affairs, Arthur Jackson looks forward to retirement as a snowbird, splitting time between Charlotte and Massachusetts.



“WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS, BUT I THINK WE STILL ARE NOT WHERE WE SHOULD BE. PART OF AREAS WHERE I TAKE A LOT OF PRIDE IN IS IN THE EVOLUTION OF DIVERSITY PROGRAMS, MOST OF THESE ARE DONE BY STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS.”

to transition with the new person. It really depends on their schedule and obligations. In my own case, I was not able to come here until August due to previous commitments.

What significant changes have occurred during your 10 years as vice chancellor for student affairs?

I think Student Affairs has always been an excellent division. It had not changed much in the last 20 years. So when I came in, I found some efficiencies to streamline the division. It has actually gotten bigger, added resources, people and programs to it. I tried to make it more administratively logical, with less silos in the division so everyone had a better chance to communicate and work with each other.”

Do you think folks on campus and off campus are aware of what is being done in your division?

We were ahead of the curve in areas such as housing, student judicial affairs, suicide prevention and programs on financial literacy that people are just starting to address now. The whole First Amendment rights situation led to the creation of the Demonstration Activity Response Team (DART). I wanted to give my staff more flexibility to do things to benefit the division and the University, as long as they were cost efficient. I tried to allow people to come up with new programs and ideas to improve the whole institution.

I think we can see efforts are working to improve retention and the graduation rate has improved. These important measures of student success have gone up every year, and we in Student Affairs contribute greatly to that success. Students who have a low level of involvement and satisfaction tend to leave the University. I tried to identify channels of success to come up with ways to limit student attrition.

How did DART come about?

Like many Charlotte institutions, we



Among many accomplishments during his tenure as vice chancellor, Art Jackson cites the creation of the Demonstration Activity Response Team, which engages with groups that plan to hold protests and other demonstrations, in order to ensure First Amendment rights in a civil atmosphere.

had our own First Amendment issues. We wanted to be more organized about this so we could be more productive. We started by looking at what other universities were doing with best practices, and we found similar efforts were underway at other schools. We wanted to establish protocols and procedures. I wanted to have a protocol to follow so we can adapt to different activities. When we see things occurring like a (police) shooting right off campus and demonstrations in Uptown Charlotte that caused a lot of damage, we already had it in place.

The Dean of Students Office and I recommended starting DART last summer. I had noticed that at every conference I attended, civility was the No. 1 or 2 issue that was on the minds of my peers. Some other universities had experienced student protests last year and the year before. So DART helps to open the lines of communication with students, faculty and staff and to let the

University audience know what is occurring. If you think about parents living 200 miles away, they don't know if these protests are happening outside the gates of the campus, on campus or eight miles away in Uptown Charlotte.

Would you list DART as one of your top accomplishments?

My top accomplishment is the role in the roughly \$500 million in capital construction projects on campus since I came here. Some of the buildings that I have been involved in are the (Popp Martin) Student Union, the new Counseling Center, the Belk Gym renovation and the new Health and Wellness Center. We have built and renovated numerous residence halls, such as Levine Hall.

This movement will continue for the next five years. Other accomplishments are the improvements to our retention and graduation levels. They have gone up several percentage points every year. We have done things like

streamlining the withdrawal process. This gives students other options before they do withdraw. We have been able to convince some students not to withdraw. It is all about student success, trying to help them to graduate.

I have also emphasized fundraising for the division. We now have a gift officer, and this has helped us to increase our development efforts.

How would you describe your leadership style?

I feel that I am a delegating leader. Someone told me a long time ago that your career will be determined by the people you hire. So I try to hire people that are smarter than me in their areas of expertise and are hardworking people. People who are not willing to put in long hours won't last long here.

I started out as a counselor, and I worked my way up the ladder. I did not magically appear as a vice chancellor. I worked as a financial aid director, an academic counselor and an assistant director in admissions.

A lot of my work ethic comes from my family and especially my mother. She worked in a factory, got her degree and became a guidance counselor. I have a working-class mentality in that I know the success of an organization depends on all the individuals working in it. Everyone on my staff is a professional, and I expect them to act appropriately because we depend on all those functions to succeed as a university.

I have been known to come in two days before school with a broom if a residence hall is not ready. I try to be a role model and am willing to work as long as needed to get things done. However, we work together. We work as a team, not as individuals.

Describe the current state of Student Affairs at UNC Charlotte?

We are doing the right things, but I think we still are not where we should be. Part of areas where I take a lot of pride in is in the evolution of diversity programs, most of these are done by Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. We have improved greatly. We have dialogues to improve diversity and created the Latino Student Services programs. These were not in existence when I started here. We also have the Veteran Student Services Office and the Jamil Niner Student Pantry.

I believe North Carolina still has a long way to go when it comes to diversity. Coming



Vice Chancellor Art Jackson says that as he nears retirement, he foresees a rejuvenation of the vision and mission of the Student Affairs division.

from Massachusetts — this came as a surprise to me. Sometimes I think we have become more resistant to change in North Carolina. We need to adapt to those changes in a progressive and methodical way.

Charlotte and UNC Charlotte are more progressive than the rest of the state. Colleges and universities are the leaders for change in America. We must be in the forefront of areas such as technology and scientific advances. We are supposed to be educating our students to be leaders in North Carolina and the world. Our goal is that we should not to be satisfied with how it is, but how it should be.

You are still a young person; why retire now?

I have put my heart and soul here for 10 years. I had not intended to stay at UNC Charlotte for that long. However, my family and I think this is the best institution I have ever worked in. It is very collegial and inclusive. Working with Chancellor (Philip L.) Dubois has been an excellent opportunity for me to improve myself as a professional and as a person. It is why

I came here. This place was really evolving and making the transition to a research university. We are hopefully going to be at the highest Carnegie level of research very soon. After 10 years, besides wanting to spend more time with my family, I hope to be teaching part-time in the Cato College of Education.

I think it is time for a rejuvenation of the vision and the mission of the division. You have to change to keep up with your counterparts. You also need to refresh your image to continue to be relevant. Besides, my grandkids and my wife have been putting more demands on me. I will be a snowbird, spending some time in Charlotte and in Massachusetts.

Transition is good for an organization. It's important to leave an institution in better shape than when you first came. I think I made incremental improvements to help the division and the University. I also hope that I have laid a strong foundation for my successor. ●

Paul Nowell is senior communications manager at UNC Charlotte.

Continued from Chancellor's Letter

Counseling Center

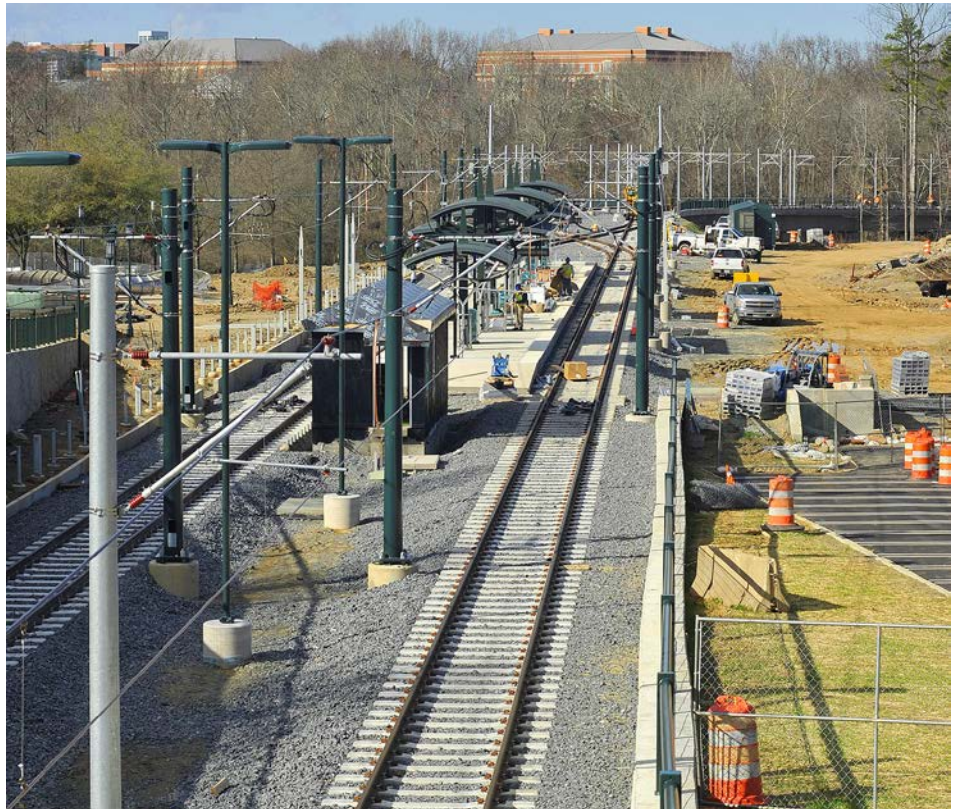
A new 10,800 square foot, \$4.7 million dollar Counseling Center currently under construction is due to open in August 2017. The facility will allow the Counseling Center to expand its staff to meet the needs of a growing student body, which has been requesting counseling services at an increasing rate. The facility will include space for additional professional staff and a significant expansion of group counseling services. The new building will also allow for closer collaboration with the Student Health Center and the Center for Wellness Promotion. With the move, the Counseling Center will change its name to Counseling and Psychological Services. Relocation of these staff members from the Atkins Building to their new facility will permit design to begin on the expansion of the University Career Center.

Health and Wellness Center

While the Counseling Center will help ensure our students have healthy minds, our new Health and Wellness Center will ensure that their physical health is also sound. The planned 144,000 sq. ft. facility will house additional gymnasium space, cardio and free weight training areas, group fitness rooms, recreational pools, and a spectacular raised walking track. This additional space will allow our creative Recreational Services staff to offer additional individual and group options related to aquatics, fitness, intramural sports, open recreation, club sports, and special events. Located on the site of the parking lot next door to the Popp Martin Student Union, groundbreaking for the Health and Wellness Center will begin early this summer with a target opening date of fall 2019. Look for a new name to be attached to this facility as we seek to identify it in a way that minimizes confusion with the Student Health Center and our Center for Wellness Promotion.

Light Rail

The northeast extension of the Charlotte Area Transit System's LYNX Blue Line to UNC Charlotte has been under construction for several years and was expected to be open for operation in August 2017. Recently, we learned that the opening day may be later in the fall of 2017 or early spring of 2018 as a result



Construction of the Charlotte Area Transit System's LYNX Blue Line Extension is moving nearer to completion between Uptown Charlotte at the UNC Charlotte campus. Testing of the 9-mile track will begin this spring, with the BLE opening for business next year. Two stations will be located on or adjacent to campus - J.W. Clay Boulevard at North Tryon Street and the UNC Charlotte Main Station located along Cameron Boulevard near Witherspoon, Miltimore and Wallis residence halls. Read more about light rail at light.rail.uncc.edu.

of delays in completion of the information technology infrastructure necessary for the trains to operate. We have been told that more information will be forthcoming by the beginning of May 2017 that will let us know with more certainty when the light rail line will be fully operational. Before passenger service is available, we will see trains running along the line over several months for testing and training purposes. In the meantime, the regional transportation authorities have approved an "all access" pass that we can make available at discounted rates for students, faculty, and staff. I guess this proves the old adage that "good things come to those who wait."

Belk Plaza

Finally, after a public process to gather the perspectives of members of the campus community, alumni, and citizens on the design of the space formerly occupied by the Belk Tower, we are prepared to begin construction on the revitalized Belk Plaza. The major elements of the Plaza will include

an oval-shaped great lawn, a monumental water element, and more "pocket" spaces for individual study, group activities, and public gatherings. Construction of the first phase of this project will begin in September 2017 and should be complete by January 2018.

So Long for Now

UNC Charlotte continues to grow and prosper in ways that are obvious to any campus visitor, and in many ways that may not be so visible. Through the concerted effort of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and our many partners, we continue to build upon the legacy of the past 50 years and look forward to the next fifty.

Cordially,

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor

Front & Center with Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band



The creation of the UNC Charlotte marching band has represented an extraordinary partnership between the Charlotte community and the university.

The initiative began in May of 2013—less than four months before the Charlotte 49ers football team would mark its first-ever game with a 52–7 home victory. Vickie and Gene Johnson, two of the University’s most loyal alums, felt strongly that game days would not be complete without live music. There were no plans at that time for a marching

band, so the Johnsons decided to create a drumline. Within a matter of days, the couple had donated and raised enough commitments from other community leaders to purchase drums and related equipment, hire a staff and provide scholarships for 25 students.

From these roots The UNC Charlotte “Pride of Niner Nation” Marching Band took the field in fall 2015.

Here are five of what will be periodic profiles of band members.

Go Niners!



Jarod Ricks, Color guard

JAROD RICKS is a sophomore at UNC Charlotte, majoring in business with a concentration in management information systems and minoring in journalism. After graduation, he plans to continue his education at the graduate level with the goal to become a business database analyst. This is his second year as part of the PNNMB Colorguard and his first year on the weapon line. When he isn’t devoted to his studies, Ricks likes to spend time with his friends and volunteer as a Niner Guide for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at UNC Charlotte.

Jarod is from Rockingham and graduated from Richmond Senior High School in 2015. He was a member of the Richmond Senior High School “Marching Raiders” for four years where he marched clarinet for three years and color guard one year. He was also a member of Cumberland Independent Winter Guard for one season. His favorite part about marching band (color guard specifically) is that it gives him a way to express himself in a way that no other activity allows.

Here’s what Jarod has to say about the PNNMB:

“When I was looking for colleges to attend, I definitely wanted one that had a marching band. Upon seeing that UNC Charlotte was having a first-year program, I knew I had to join! It was such an honor and amazing experience to march last year in the inaugural season of the PNNMB. As a male color guard member, I was anxious about joining a collegiate marching band, but now that I’m in it, I’ve found that my fellow members have become like a family to me.”



Nick Francis, Percussion

NICK FRANCIS is a sophomore at UNC Charlotte, majoring in Music Education. After graduation, he plans to continue his education in pursuit of a master's degree in percussion performance. This is his second year as part of the Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band Drumline, both years as a member of the snare line. This year, Nick accepted a Student Leadership Staff position as Drumline Equipment Manager. He is responsible for tuning the drums and ensuring everything is in good condition. In his free time, Nick likes to watch sports and play disc golf.

Nick is from Denver, N.C. and graduated from East Lincoln High School in 2015. He was a member of the East Lincoln "Mustang Band" for four years and the Indoor Percussion Ensemble for four years. With the marching band, he played auxiliary percussion for one season, vibraphone for one season and marimba for two seasons. With the indoor program, he marched bass drum for one season and snare drum for three seasons. He was also the Percussion Captain for one year. His favorite part about marching band has always been getting to drum with his best friends.

Here's what Nick has to say about the PNNMB:

"Being involved in UNC Charlotte's marching band is for sure the best thing I've ever done. Nothing has compared to playing on a drumline full of my best friends. Getting to cadence to, and inside the stadium is one of the coolest feelings anyone can experience. Playing behind the horn line and hearing the crowd cheer for us is just awesome."

Brianna Douglas, Clarinet

BRIANNA DOUGLAS is a senior at UNC Charlotte, majoring in physics and minoring in music. After graduation, she plans to continue her education at the graduate level, concentrating in astrophysics and astronomy. This is her second year in PNNMB, and she now serves as a member of the Student Leadership Staff in the role of clarinet section leader. She holds the duties of keeping the clarinet section (a.k.a. "CSQUAD") musically apt, together with marching and also keeping the section a family (and up to date on their notorious dance skills!).

Brianna proudly describes herself as a military child. She was born in Fayetteville, N.C. and has traveled the world, living in over six different places (including overseas in Okinawa, Japan). Although Brianna attended three different high schools, she graduated from L.C. Bird High School in Chesterfield, Va. in 2013. While there, she marched clarinet and was field commander of the Skyhawk Marching Band her senior year. Brianna claims that the best part of being in marching band is having a family that accepts you for who you are, and comes together to make music. In her free time, she likes to jam out to all types of music and hang out with friends.



Here's what Brianna has to say about the PNNMB:

"The band really gets the fans hyped, and seeing the positive feedback we get from them is amazing. PNNMB has helped me learn how to balance my school and personal life, while still including band. I look forward to game days and just coming to practice to be around great people and the best spirit squad at UNC Charlotte!"



Xavier Esquilin, Winds

XAVIER ESQUILIN is a freshman at UNC Charlotte, majoring in computer science with a concentration in cyber security. After college, he would like to work in a government cyber security agency or join the cyber security team of a major bank. Xavier plays sousaphone, and this is his first year as a member of the PNNMB. In his free time, he likes to go out and be active in intramural sports such as basketball and flag football.

Xavier is from Rosedale, Queens, New York, but spent his last six years living in Greensboro, N.C. He graduated from Walter Hines Page High School in Greensboro. He was a member of the Page High School “Pirate Marching Band,” where he played sousaphone for four year and served as a section leader of the low brass. His favorite part of being in marching band is the family aspect that comes with it. He takes pride in being with a group of people who love their craft and want to come together to make each other better.

Here’s what Xavier has to say about the PNNMB:

“When I caught wind that UNC Charlotte was in the process of putting together a marching band, I knew I wanted to join. I have only had positive experiences, starting all with my section. This is my family and I thoroughly enjoy being with them. Being with the band is amazing because we laugh together in times of rest... but get work done when it’s time to put a show on the field. My favorite part of band besides the family aspect is the joy everyone has after we grind out a new show, having it ready for performance. Being in the PNNMB makes it easy to love Charlotte and call it my second home. It’s always nice to have a place where you know you are welcome.”

Raven Pfeiffer, Drumline

RAVEN PFEIFFER is a freshman at UNC Charlotte, majoring in music. After graduation, she plans to continue her music career through traveling performance and music lessons. She plays snare drum in the drumline, and her favorite part of the PNNMB is being able to grow and drum with her best friends.

Raven lived in Pottstown, Pennsylvania for the first 10 years of her life, and then her family moved to Mooresville, where she graduated from Mooresville High School in 2016. She was a member of the Mooresville “Pride in Motion Marching Band” for four years, playing snare all four years. She was co-captain of the drumline her senior year. Raven was also a member of Fusion Percussion, a WGI Open Class indoor line, in 2014. She likes to play other instruments including drum set, guitar, bass and piano; write music; sing; watch Netflix; perform with The Phil Hamrick Band; serve at The Cove Church; and spend time with friends and family during her free time.



Here’s what Raven has to say about the PNNMB:

“I’m so proud to be a part of the PNNMB. I’ve already made so many long-lasting friends and learned so much in such little time. In the past, it was very difficult to gain respect as a female drummer. I was very nervous coming into college, but pleased by how welcoming the PNNMB was to me. I’m grateful to be with such a talented group of people. I want to encourage all of the female drummers that might be interested in this marching band—you have to believe in yourself and be brave. It’s never going to be easy, but if you’re passionate, it will be completely worth it.”

➔ Learn more about the Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band at marchingband.uncc.edu



HOW OPPORTUNITY MULTIPLIES

“I’m lucky to attend UNC Charlotte because it shows me what’s possible. I came for greater opportunity and options. Not everyone comes from a wealthy family or has things handed to them. We all deserve equal opportunity, because education is important for personal growth. I’m self-motivated knowing college is a blessing. Immersing myself in learning is not a thing I want to sacrifice. By investing in capable students, UNC Charlotte can have a bigger impact on students’ lives.”

Alisha Parker ’17 | *Marketing major, double minor in Political Science and French*

EXPONENTIAL
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UNC CHARLOTTE



➤ *Exponential: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte* celebrates the dramatic trajectory of growth of our University and our 120,000 alumni. This campaign offers all of us—alumni, business leaders and the University community—the opportunity to shape a future that is even more exciting than our past.

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Norm the Niner welcomed UNC Charlotte faithful to the first annual 49er alumni ring ceremony.

Bonded For Life

The power of tradition took center stage as participants of the University's inaugural ring ceremony were presented their official UNC Charlotte rings.

"The official UNC Charlotte ring captures the very essence of shared achievement and pride as well as the memories of the common experiences that make the University so unique and so beloved by alumni," said Chancellor Philip L. Dubois in addressing nearly 400 students and alumni at the ceremony in the Popp Martin Student Union.

A committee of students, alumni and staff collaborated to oversee the



A COMMITTEE OF STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND STAFF COLLABORATED TO OVERSEE THE DESIGN OF THE NEW UNC CHARLOTTE RING, CRAFTED TO CAPTURE THE UNIVERSITY'S HERITAGE AND PROVIDE A LASTING BOND FOR GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS AND ALUMNI.

design of the new UNC Charlotte ring, crafted to capture the University's heritage and provide a lasting bond for generations of students and alumni.

"I'm proud to be a student at UNC Charlotte and to play a part in starting such wonderful traditions at this institution," Student Body President Fahn Darkor stated. "In presenting these rings, we're signifying the foundational knowledge and comprehensive education we received from UNC Charlotte and acknowledging the integral role the University provided to us on our personal road to growth and achievement."

The University's Alumni Office imparted strong symbolism as part of the ceremony. Prior to the rings being presented, they were stored overnight in the Reed Gold Mine to bond the rings to the region and UNC Charlotte's pioneering spirit of discovery and exploration.

Stephen Steiger, president of the UNC Charlotte Alumni Association Board of Directors, instructed the 184 students and alumni who participated in the ceremony to place the ring on their fingers with different directions for students and alums.

"Place your ring on your finger with the crown facing you," he said. "After you graduate, remove your ring and turn it so that the crown faces outward, symbolizing the completion of your degree, your path to



the future and your new status as an alumnus or alumna of UNC Charlotte."

To conclude the ceremony, and as another way to strengthen recipients' ties to their alma mater, ring wearers were invited to christen their official rings by dipping them into the water that flows through the pan of the 49er Miner, now located on Cato Plaza. ●

To conclude the alumni ring ceremony, ring wearers were invited to christen their rings by dipping them into water flowing from the pan of the 49er Miner, located on Cato Plaza.



Chancellor Dubois officiated at the inaugural 49er alumni ring ceremony. Here he hands-off rings to Jonathan Sanders (left) and Khadija Almaskeen.



UNC Charlotte faculty and staff acknowledge the University's selection as an Innovation and Economy Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. Pictured from left to right: UNC Charlotte's Bruce LaMattina, Clay Andrews, Jeanette Sims, Owen Furuseeth and Ben Uhrich were part of a team that spent 10 months preparing and applying for the coveted national designation.

Improving Lives Beyond Campus

UNC Charlotte
tapped as Innovation
and Economic
Prosperity University

UNC Charlotte has a robust history of regional engagement that supports economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship. In recognition of this strong commitment, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) in January designated UNC Charlotte an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University.

With this national designation, UNC Charlotte joins 54 other public institutions that are improving lives well beyond the confines of their campuses, said APLU President Peter McPherson. "Public research universities, such as UNC Charlotte, serve as economic

engines for their local communities and states by conducting cutting-edge research that yields breakthroughs ... Equally important, these institutions cultivate the talent necessary to help fledgling businesses take flight and ensure existing enterprises have the human capital they need to maintain their dynamics.

Bruce LaMattina, director of research for the Charlotte Research Institute (CRI), led the UNC Charlotte team that applied for this APLU designation. Other University personnel who assisted with the 10-month self-study and application process included Clay Andrews and Jim Currier, CRI; Owen Furuseth, Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs; Jeanette Sims, Division of University Advancement; and Ben Uhrich, a graduate student in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Bill McKoy and Kevin Hart, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, conducted focus groups of regional partners and other campus stakeholders, and Lesley Brown and Joy McAuley, edited the final draft of the application.

"Compared to the other APLU-designated Innovation and Economic Prosperity Universities, UNC Charlotte was founded much later; yet, we've made significant strides in economic engagement throughout the region," said LaMattina. "As one of a cohort of other public universities with this designation, UNC Charlotte has access to best practices that will enable us to strengthen how we partner with campus units as well as business and industry."

As part of the rigorous application process, the University conducted a self-assessment that identified areas of opportunity for improvement; these were research, communication and entrepreneurship.

"Moving forward we can develop action plans to further develop these areas we have identified, and we can track our progress as we learn from other institutions in order to enhance our efforts in economic engagement," LaMattina explained.

As part of the application process, LaMattina and his team identified several major accomplishments that illustrated how UNC Charlotte has had a transformative economic impact for the greater Charlotte region.

The University, with major support from Charlotte energy companies, developed the

Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) in response to the energy industry's need for well-educated and highly trained engineers and as a means to provide sustainable support for applied research. Since its founding, EPIC has become a national leader in energy research and development and a catalyst for economic development.

UNC Charlotte Center City, which opened in August 2011, has enabled the University to better connect to the city's economic and political leadership. In addition to housing a several graduate-level programs, UNC Charlotte Center City is an anchor for the redevelopment of the city's First Ward and partners with many of the nearby leading cultural institutions.

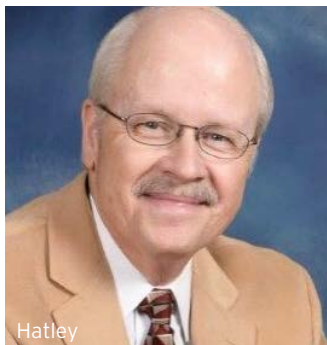
"COMPARED TO THE OTHER APLU-DESIGNATED INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY UNIVERSITIES, UNC CHARLOTTE WAS FOUNDED MUCH LATER; YET, WE'VE MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE REGION."

In addition, UNC Charlotte was vital to the efforts to extend Charlotte's Blue Line light rail transit to the University City area. UNC Charlotte donated campus land for the rail line and collaborated with nearby Carolinas Medical Center-University to fund an elevated crosswalk for transit passengers that connects to parking decks, the train platform and the campus. In the past year, nearly 2,000 new apartments have been announced, many of them in conjunction with mixed-use development projects that are generating new jobs and improving prospects for business and industry along the Blue Line Extension.

"Economic engagement is a core priority of UNC Charlotte, North Carolina's urban research institution," said LaMattina. "Under the leadership of Chancellor Dubois, the University has embarked upon a mission to help solve issues confronting the business community and prepare graduates for the workplace, ready to solve problems, and to become tomorrow's innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders." ●

Class Notes

1970s



Larry Hatley ('73) was named senior vice president of First Bancorp, the parent company of First Bank. He also was named branch manager for the Locust, North Carolina location. Hatley joins First Bank with more than 42 years of banking experience, previously serving an executive position at Bank of North Carolina. Hatley earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from UNC Charlotte.

1980s



Ted Alexander ('82) is the western regional director of Preservation North Carolina, a statewide nonprofit organization with a mission to protect and promote historic buildings, landscapes and sites important to the

diverse heritage of North Carolina. Alexander, who also served as mayor of Shelby from 2003-11, holds a master's degree in historic preservation from Cornell. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UNC Charlotte.

Scott Braswell ('84, '97) was named head football coach at Woodberry Forest School. He previously served as head football coach from 1997-2014 and athletic director from 2008-16 at Hoggard High School in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he won a state championship in 2007 and 12 conference titles. Braswell earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in education from UNC Charlotte.

Dewey Dellinger ('86) was promoted to vice president for academic affairs of Gaston College. He is responsible for overseeing a number of academic divisions as well as educational partnerships, distance education, institutional effectiveness and the libraries. Since arriving at Gaston College in 1990, he served as associate vice president for academic affairs, dean of arts and sciences, department chair of mathematics and professor. Dellinger earned a master's degree in mathematics from UNC Charlotte.

Perry Genova ('84) was promoted to vice president of research and development of Titan Medical Inc., a medical device company focused on the design and development of a robotic surgical system. Previously serving as a senior biomedical engineering executive, Genova will now be responsible for development of the company's SPORT™ Surgical System. He holds a master's degree and doctorate in biomedical engineering from UNC Chapel Hill. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from UNC Charlotte.



Franklin Vagnone ('89) was named president of the Old Salem Museums & Gardens, one of America's most comprehensive and authentic history attractions. Vagnone marks the 11th president of the 66-year-old institution, which includes the Historic Town of Salem, the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and the Gardens at Old Salem. Additionally, he is the founder and president of Twisted Preservation Cultural Consulting in New York City, which he started in

2000. He received a master's degree in architecture from Columbia University and earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from UNC Charlotte.



Terry Worrell ('85) was presented with the Distinguished Educator Award for 2017 by the North Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The award is presented to an educator who has made significant contributions to education through visionary and committed leadership. Worrell served in education for more than 35 years as a teacher, principal and various central office positions involving innovative programs to support student success. She holds a bachelor's degree in middle school science education and doctorate degree from UNC Chapel Hill, and an education specialist degree from Appalachian State University. She earned a master's degree in human development and learning from UNC Charlotte.

1990s

Robert Carpenter ('94)

published the book "Gaston County, North Carolina in the Civil War," which uses the words of various citizens to narrate life during the war and includes the transcription of the 1863 Gaston County tax list. The North Carolina Genealogical Society recognized Carpenter with its award in publishing for a book of transcriptions of an original North Carolina record. Carpenter earned a bachelor's degree in education from UNC Charlotte.

Sameer Rao ('95) was named chief financial officer of Eneate Corporation, a global advanced Li-ion battery developer. He has more than 21 years of industry experience in technology and finance, most recently serving as a finance executive at MaxLinear Inc. Rao holds a bachelor's degree in electronics and communications engineering from Manipal Institute of Technology in India and an MBA from the University of Southern California. He earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from UNC Charlotte.

2000s

Theresa Crist ('07) was promoted to senior analyst at 84.51°, a customer engagement company that

helps companies create sustainable growth by remaining customer focused. Previously serving as associate analyst, Crist is now responsible for geospatial insights across the business. She received a bachelor's degree in geography from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in geography from UNC Charlotte.

Adria Focht ('05) won the 2016 Travel Industry Award presented by the Cleveland County Chamber. The award recognizes an individual who made a significant contribution to the advancement of tourism with a history of supporting the hospitality industry. Focht is the director and curator of the Kings Mountain Historical Museum, which saw a 25 percent increase in attendance during the year. She holds a master's degree in anthropology from East Carolina University in addition to a bachelor's degree in art from UNC Charlotte.

Ryan Graham ('04) was named senior director of sales and marketing of CD2 Learning, a learning and development system on a single scalable cloud-based platform. Prior to CD2, Graham served as vice president of sales and executive team member at Peach New Media, which is now Abila. He earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies from UNC Charlotte.

2010s

Miller Anyogu ('16) and **Brian Anyogu ('16)** launched a startup company Quik Gigz aimed at providing a platform for college students to earn extra income without having a full-time job. The site (QuikGigz.com) connects users who post jobs, tasks or other gigs with students who complete the task for them. A young company, Quik Gigz is focused on UNC Charlotte students, but hopes to create a platform where companies, small businesses and residents can hire college students around the nation for temporary, flexible jobs. The company is currently housed in UNC Charlotte's PORTAL Building as a part of the University's business incubator Ventureprise. Miller and Brian received bachelor's degrees in mathematics for business and systems engineering, respectively, from UNC Charlotte.



Eric Callaway ('14) was named advancement systems manager at WFAE, Charlotte's NPR® news station. He will oversee the transition and upgrade

of WFAE's membership database. Callaway joined WFAE in 2012 as gifts processing coordinator. He earned a master's degree in public administration from UNC Charlotte.



Want to submit a Class Note?

If you're a proud 49er alum and have exciting news, we want to know. Join the Alumni Association's online community to submit news and to stay engaged with the University by visiting 49erAlumni.uncc.edu. Additionally, you can submit news via email to 49erAlumni@uncc.edu. Accompanying photos are encouraged.

49ers Make Mark in Public Office

UNC Charlotte alumni are making great strides in public office. Alums who were elected or re-elected in November 2016 were:



Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, B.A., M.A., Architecture, ('93, '94), R



U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson, B.A., History, ('96), R-District 8



Sen. Joyce Waddell, M.A., Education, ('73), D-Mecklenburg



Rep. Dean Arp, M.S., Civil Engineering, ('99), R-Union



Rep. Cecil Brockman, B.A., Political Science, ('06), D-Guilford



Rep. Bill Brawley, B.S., Accounting, ('78), R-Mecklenburg



Rep. Kelly Hastings, Teaching Certificate, ('09), R-Cleveland, Gaston



Rep. Jason Saine, B.A., Political Science, ('95), R-Lincoln



Rep. Mary Belk, B.A., Political Science, ('06), D-Mecklenburg



Rep. Linda Hunt Williams, MPA, ('96), R-Wake

WHAT IS YOUR **LEGACY?**

Dr. Loy H. Witherspoon joined the faculty of Charlotte College in 1964 and plunged himself into everything from academic leadership to campus activities. Today, a scholarship, lecture series and residence hall carry his name. If one asked Dr. Witherspoon why he gives to UNC Charlotte, he would swiftly smile and say "how can I ask others to give without giving myself?" Dr. Witherspoon has made a planned gift, you can too.

Please contact **Beth Fischer** at **704-687-7677** or **beth.fischer@uncc.edu** for more information.

Plannedgiving.uncc.edu

Not intended as legal, tax or investment advice - please consult your CPA, Financial Planner or Attorney.



FIRST CHAIR, BIG LEGACY

Department named Turner School of Accountancy following \$2.5 million gift

BY PAUL NOWELL

Some would say Thomas C. Turner had already given enough through his more than half a century of service to UNC Charlotte. Turner, who helped establish the Department of Accounting, retired in 1991 but has stayed actively involved with the University. Recently, he donated \$2.5 million to UNC Charlotte.

Turner's gift will provide scholarship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate accounting students within the Belk College of Business. Recipients must possess high moral character, academic promise and demonstrated financial need.

The impact of the gift is tremendous and fits with Turner's passion, which was teaching and mentoring students during his years of leadership, said Steven Ott, dean of the Belk College. In his honor, the department was renamed the Turner School of Accountancy.



Tom Turner was instrumental in founding a culture in the Accounting Department, hiring dedicated professors who were especially good at teaching. He also connected the department with industry, creating deep connections with accounting firms.

“HE SET THE VISION, HE LED THE TEAM THROUGH THE NASCENT YEARS OF THE DEPARTMENT, AND HE TAUGHT STUDENTS WHO WOULD GO ON TO LEAD TOP ACCOUNTING FIRMS AND TOP COMPANIES.”

From four accounting graduates in the class of 1967 to nearly 5,000 accounting graduates during the past 50 years, Turner helped develop the Accounting Department into a premier program, one that continues today as part of the Belk College, Ott said.

‘Founding a Culture’

“Thomas Turner was instrumental in founding a culture in the department. He hired dedicated professors that were especially good at teaching. But he also connected the Accounting Department with industry, creating deep connections with accounting firms. Those two things still permeate the department today and throughout the entire college,” Ott said.

Chancellor Philip L. Dubois said Turner exemplifies service, dedication and commitment. “The faculty and alumni say he emphasized the individual needs of students — many of whom were returning to school after service in the military, others who worked factory jobs at night to come to school in the morning and single mothers needing to earn a better living,” Dubois said. “Thomas Turner’s gift is a continuation of his legacy at UNC Charlotte.”

Turner was the first chair of the Accounting Department. When he arrived at UNC Charlotte in fall 1966, he assembled a team of professors who shared his commitment to teaching excellence and service to students — many of whom are still teaching today and have brought the programs to excellence, said Hughlene Burton, director of the Turner School of Accountancy.

“He set the vision, he led the team through the nascent years of the department, and he taught students who would go on to lead top accounting firms and top companies,” she said.

Outside the classroom, Turner served for many years as the chancellor-appointed faculty athletic representative to the NCAA and was a guiding force in the University joining the Sun Belt Conference in 1976. A year later, the 49ers men’s basketball team made the NCAA Final Four.

In 2014, more than 150 alumni and friends contributed nearly \$240,000 to create an



endowed scholarship to support undergraduate accounting students, provide funds for the Thomas C. Turner Excellence in Teaching Award and support major renovation of the Accounting Department’s conference room named in Turner’s honor.

Purple Heart

Prior to his faculty career, Turner volunteered for service in the Korean War and earned a Purple Heart for bravery on the battlefield.

Turner’s emphasis on teaching — demonstrated by the fact that five faculty members hired by Turner have received the Bank of America Award for Teaching Excellence — were major factors in developing the reputation of the school. Turner also was a Bank of America Award recipient in 1972. Within the Belk College of Business, accounting faculty have been honored with the Thomas C. Turner Distinguished Teaching Award annually since 1994.

During the past 50 years, the accounting program has earned many accolades. Alumni are partners in all of the major accounting firms in the region, in leading law firms and in many other CPA firms.

The program receives broad philanthropic support from Fortune 500 companies and all of the major accounting firms. Accounting

firms and large companies in this region recruit interns and graduates from the program.

Faculty members have won numerous University, state and national awards, and they work closely with local firms to provide extensive professional development. Faculty members are recognized as national experts in taxation and accounting regulations.

Turner’s gift is included in “EXPONENTIAL: The Campaign for UNC Charlotte,” announced in September 2016. It is the largest campaign in UNC Charlotte’s history and will change the future of the University.

The “EXPONENTIAL” theme reinforces the accelerating force that UNC Charlotte has on the lives of its students, on its educational and economic partners and on the region and beyond. Over recent decades, UNC Charlotte has rapidly expanded enrollments, faculty and programs, while remaining true to founder Bonnie Cone’s vision — that UNC Charlotte will be a place of access and opportunity for every deserving student.

The Belk College and the Turner School of Accountancy have launched a fundraising campaign to match Thomas Turner’s gift of \$2.5 million to the school. ●

Paul Nowell is senior communications manager at UNC Charlotte.

What Cost Health Care?

Q&A with Mark James DeHaven, Dean W. Colvard Distinguished Professor

What are the most popular parts of the Affordable Care Act? What components would be most politically difficult to repeal?

Of course, what most people like and the provision that makes the most sense is providing care for people with preexisting conditions. The very idea of insurance (creating a broad pool and sharing costs among the healthy and those who are not as healthy) is to share costs across large numbers of people, under the assumption that only some of the individuals will need to use the insurance at any given time, but all may need to have help managing large and unexpected events—in this case health emergencies.

The former practice of excluding entire lists of any possible condition that might remotely be related to an acute condition or development of a chronic condition, has rightly been eliminated—it was immoral. A return to these exclusions is not insurance, it is creating an entire class of uninsured and high-risk individuals who are subject to exorbitant and unchecked out-of-pocket expenses due to the extremely unrealistic and unsustainable costs of the U.S. health care system. This provision would be the most politically difficult to repeal.

Are Health Savings Accounts an effective strategy for helping families finance health care costs?

Americans are notoriously negligent when it comes to savings—any types of savings. I am not sure if we can depend on Americans to start saving for a possible medical emergency—most people still continue to smoke, for example, and engage in other high-risk behaviors under the assumption that they will not get sick. People just do not believe it will happen to them. I think it is a really nice idea in theory, but not very practical.

Another major issue here is the working poor who do not have discretionary funds for savings accounts. I have worked in communities for the past 25 years, directing community medicine programs in marginalized and underserved communities, where there is high unemployment (much of it due to debilitating health conditions and few economic opportunities) and low



income, where many people work two and three jobs, raise families, and then develop a debilitating medical condition, cannot work, and then lose their house, their savings, and all that they have worked for. These folks often cannot afford to save in a way that could possibly offset the enormous expenses required to seek emergency episodic or even routine care in the very expensive U.S. system.

And, finally, what savings accounts avoid entirely is the question about affordability—medical care in the U.S. is vastly out of proportion with the rest of the advanced world (double that in U.K, Canada, France, Germany). And, the percent of GDP devoted to health care is vastly out of proportion also—17 percent is not sustainable.

Do you believe it is possible to drive down the cost of health care through more market based reforms?

Absolutely not. I have run community medicine programs in three large American cities during the past 25 years, both before and during Obamacare. The change has been dramatic the past few years. Before Obamacare there was no incentive for the market to reform itself—we have to be serious, look at what was occurring

before Obamacare; the banking industry cannot regulate itself and the health care marketplace cannot regulate itself either. Most people do not realize that 80 percent of chronic disease is preventable, yet 95 percent of health care expenditures in the U.S. are for disease treatment and only 5 percent for prevention, and the CDC estimates that between 70 - 75 percent of health care expenditures are for preventable conditions.

Shifting to market-driven reforms is a return to what we know does not work, the conditions that stimulated the need for the ACA in the first place. The market may work for the affluent - highly educated with good general health. However, there is no market incentive to work in poor communities under that type of system, where people have real and complex needs that do not exist in affluent communities.

How do you see the role of employers in providing coverage changing over the coming years?

I am not an economist, but I watched employer-based coverage decline over most of the past decades from over 70 percent to less than 55 percent, and also shift costs—to the point where the employee share of many employee-based systems was too expensive, and many with access to employer-based insurance could not afford the premiums. Thus, many large employers have discovered that they need to focus on maintaining the health and wellness of their employees, in order to avoid the need for expensive care in the first place. Small employers are at a distinct disadvantage, and it all boils down to the fact that health care is just too expensive.

The ACA slowed health care expenditures as a percent of GDP for the first time in my lifetime. I think the ideal system is for employers, communities and health care systems to work together to improve health (not health care), by addressing the social determinants of health in our communities. ●

(This article has been edited for length. A longer version of this article appeared in late January as an Ask the Experts feature on WalletHub.com)



Photo by Wade Bruton

UNC Charlotte trustees Dhiaa Jamil (left) and Mike Wilson take a quick timeout at a foosball table in the new Levine Hall. On Feb. 9, trustees toured the new residence hall. Named in honor of Sandra and Leon Levine, the residence hall, completed recently, will house more than 400 students, as well as the administrative offices for the Honors College and the Levine Scholars Program.